Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-061
Thursday
1 April 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-061 *1 April 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Meeting Marks 'Revival of Arab Solidarity' *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 30 Mar]* .. 1

Islamic Affairs

ICO Meeting To Discuss Major Islamic Issues *[Islamabad Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Interviewed on Land Day *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Al-Husayni: Closure 'New Obstacle' to Peace *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Al-Husayni Wants Problems Resolved, Talks Resumed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 5
Greater European Role in Peace Process Urged *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Sha'th Calls Washington Talks 'Insufficient' *[Algiers VOP]* 5
'Ashrawi Interviewed on Peace Process *[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 28 Mar]* 5
Delegation Adviser Says 'No Other Way' But Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Christopher Said Sent 'Secret' Messages to Arabs *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 1 Apr]* 7
U.S. Asked To Fulfill Role of 'Full Partner' *[AL-FAJR 31 Mar]* 8
U.S. Should Assume 'Full Responsibility' for Talks *[AL-QUDS 31 Mar]* 8
U.S. Said Responsible for Deadlock in Peace Process *[AL-NAHAR 31 Mar]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreigners Reportedly Behind Barracks Attack *[Algiers TV]* 10
Constantine Court Passes Five Death Sentences *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Turkish Foreign Minister Continues Official Visit 10
Meets With Foreign Minister *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Confers With Ali Kafi *[Algiers TV]* 10
Holds News Conference *[Ankara Radio]* 11

Egypt

Mubarak: Possible Expulsions for Iran Diplomats *[Cairo TV]* 11
Mubarak Blames 'Foreign Forces' for Terrorism *[Hamburg TV]* 11
Butrus-Ghali on Mubarak's Contribution, UN Role *[MENA]* 12
Al-Baz Interviewed on Peace, U.S. Policy, Iran *[AL-DIYAR 23 Mar, etc]* 12
Mubarak, Islamic Leader Discuss Recent Conflicts *[Vienna TV]* 15
Islamic Group Claims Pyramids Blast, Threatens More *[AFP]* 16
Muslim Brotherhood Disclaims Link With Terrorism *[MENA]* 16
Mufti Urges Confronting Terrorism, Subversion *[MENA]* 17
Official: Terrorists Constitute 'Effective Force' *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 29 Mar]* 17
Aswan Police Shoot, Arrest al-Jihad Member *[MENA]* 17
* 'Abd-al-Rahman's Family Reportedly in Sudan *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 23 Mar]* 17
University Bans Academic's Works for 'Blasphemy' *[AFP]* 19
Media Cooperation Talks Held With Mali *[MENA]* 19
Two Cooperation Accords Signed *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Official Denies 20-Percent Cut in German Aid *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Communique Released at End of al-Bashir Visit *[Tripoli TV]* 20

Western Sahara

Polisario Leader on UN Role, Referendum *[LA REPUBBLICA 30 Mar]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

One Killed as Fishing Boats Flee Iranian Patrol *[KUNA]* 23
Communique Issued on Lebanese President's Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 23

United Arab Emirates

Lebanese President Arrives in Abu Dhabi From Kuwait *[WAKH]* 23
First Round of Talks Held *[VOL]* 23
AFP on Purpose of Trip *[AFP]* 24
Meets With President *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 24

IRAQ

Ba'th Party Calls UN Decision on Sanctions 'Unfair' *[AFP]* 25
Extension Called 'New Test' *[INA]* 25
Opposition Reports Evidence of Trade With Iran *[Cairo International]* 25
Kurds Accused of Killing 1,500 Soldiers in North *[INA]* 26
Late Mar Series of Explosions Reported in North *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 26
Leftover Mine Kills 2, Injures 3 in South *[INA]* 26
Saddam Chairs Ba'th Party Iraq Command Meeting *[INA]* 26
Finance Minister Confers With Turkish Official *[INA]* 26

ISRAEL

French Journal Reports Israeli-Syrian Talks in Paris *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Gur Comments on 'Arafat Remarks on Escalation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Arab MK To Meet With 'Arafat, Propose Cease-Fire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
MK's Say Rabin Incapable of Fighting Terrorism *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
'Dovish' Ministers Endorse New Open-Fire Orders *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
General Says Closure Will Curb, Not Stop Terror *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Press Views, Comments on Security Situation *[HA'ARETZ 31 Mar, etc]* 28
IDF 'Significantly' Bolsters Troops in Territories *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Authorities Raid Camp Within Jerusalem City Limits *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
One of 'Most Dangerous' Gaza 'Terrorists' Escapes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Thai Worker Stabbed; 3 Gazans Injured by IDF Fire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
'Terrorists' Shoot at Qatif Settler; No Casualties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Bomb Safely Detonated on Mount Gilboa' Road *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Rafi Peled Appointed New Police Commissioner *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Absence of Arab Workers Causing Economic Slowdown *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
European 'Troika' Arrives for Political, Economic Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31

JORDAN

European 'Troika' Delegation Visits Amman 32
Meets With PLO Officials *[Amman Radio]* 32
EC Envoys, PLO's Qaddumi Comment *[AFP]* 32
Meets With Foreign Minister *[Amman Radio]* 32
Confers With King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 33
Leaves for Damascus *[Amman Radio]* 33
Prime Minister Confers With PLO Team *[Amman TV]* 34

LEBANON

Fatah Official Assassinated in Beirut *[RFL]* 35
EC 'Troika' Delegation Arrives, Meets Buwayz *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Process *[London AL-HAWADITH 2 Apr]* 35
Authorities To Request U.S. Extradition of Hijacker *[AL-NAHAR 29 Mar]* 36
Israel Said To Kidnap 5 Fishermen off Tyre *[VOL]* 37
Fishermen Released 1 Apr *[VOL]* 37
Israeli Gunboats Shell Camp in North; 3 Injured *[AFP]* 37
DFLP Claims Killing 7 Israeli Soldiers in South *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37

SYRIA

EC Delegation Arrives; al-Shar' Comments *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Al-Shar' Comments After Talks *[Damascus TV]* 38
EC Delegation Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Paper Criticizes European Mideast Role *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Vatican Official Arrives on Visit, Makes Statement *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Meets With al-Asad, al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 39
More on al-Asad Meeting *[SANA]* 40
Al-Zu'bi Confers With Lebanese Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Syrian, Iranian Interior Ministers Hold Talks *[IRNA]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar on Cabinet Submissions, Defense Appointment *[Tehran Radio]* 41
More on Hekmatyar Remarks *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 41
National Islamic Movement Submits Cabinet Choices *[Tehran Radio]* 41

Bangladesh

Talks on Water Resources With India Begin *[AFP]* 41
World Bank Proposal on Currency Devaluation Rejected *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 20 Mar]* 42

India

Fire Breaks Out at Atomic Power Plant *[Delhi TV]* 42
No Radiation Leakage *[AFP]* 42
Export-Import Policy Changes Announced in Lok Sabha *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Commerce Minister on Steps To Boost Agricultural Exports *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Farmers Rally for Open Market, Threaten Noncooperation *[AFP]* 43
Commentary Views Dunkel Draft on Trade, Agriculture *[Delhi International]* 44
Commentary Welcomes Foreign Exchange Relaxation *[Delhi International]* 45
New Trade Arrangement With Nepal Goes Into Effect *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Government Rules out Privatization of Coal Mines *[Delhi Radio]* 45
MP's Briefed on Developments in Defense Sector *[Delhi Radio]* 46
French Firm Seeks To Supply Defense Forces *[INDIAN EXPRESS 22 Mar]* 46
Commentary Discusses Ways To Combat Terrorism *[Delhi International]* 47
Commentary Rebuts Pakistan Human Rights Charges *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Militants Killed, Arrested in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Four Killed, 40 Injured in Uttar Pradesh Bombing *[Delhi Radio]* 48

Iran

Christopher Terrorism Remarks Deemed 'Propaganda' *[Tehran International]* 48
Clandestine Welcomes Christopher Remarks *[Voice of Mojahed]* 49
Celebration Leads to Demonstration, Arrests *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 49
Khamene'i Amnesty Called 'Farcical Display' *[Voice of Mojahed]* 50
German Refusal To Allow Minister's Visit Viewed *[Voice of Mojahed]* 50

Two Wounded in Attack on Convoy in Strait of Hormuz *[AFP]* 50
Finance for Helping War-Damaged Areas Approved *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Central Bank Head Reviews Deposit, Loan Figures *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Economic Progress in Past Year Reviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Successful Aircraft Repair Operation Reported *[IRNA]* 52
• Brazil Refusing To Build Karun-3 Dam *[London KEYHAN 7 Jan]* 52
• Ayatollah Amoli Deceased at 91 in Qom *[London KEYHAN 4 Mar]* 52
• Regime's Control of Universities Criticized *[London KEYHAN 11 Feb]* 53
• Educator Criticizes Clergy for Usurping Jobs *[London KEYHAN 7 Jan]* 53
• Mek Council Reports 70 Women Members *[London KEYHAN 7 Jan]* 54

Nepal

Transport Strike Ends With Government Concessions *[AFP]* 54

Pakistan

Minister of State Afridi Resigns From Sharif Cabinet *[AFP]* 54
Russian Foreign Minister To Visit 6 Apr *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Uzbekistan Trade Delegation Continues Visit 55
Cooperation Agreements Signed *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Meets With President Khan *[Islamabad TV]* 55
Joint Venture Opportunities Noted *[Islamabad International]* 55
Accord on Joint Banking Company Signed With Kazakhstan *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
EC Delegation Discusses Economic, Trade Cooperation *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Concern Expressed at Rights Violations by India *[Islamabad TV]* 56
Officials Criticized for Extraditing Drug Suspects *[PAKISTAN 30 Mar]* 56
Record Number Sent Overseas for Employment *[Islamabad Radio]* 56

Sri Lanka

Commission on Cooperation With Bangladesh Ends Session *[Colombo International]* 56
Minister Urges Holding Regional Naval Exercise *[LANKAPUVATH]* 57
Security Forces Repulse LTTE Attack in Vavuniya *[Colombo International]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Meeting Marks 'Revival of Arab Solidarity'

PM3103154693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Mar 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Damascus Meeting Postpones Explosion"]

[Text] The frontline states' foreign ministers' decision to delay the answer to the U.S. call for the resumpton of the bilateral peace negotiations to give the current contacts with Washington a chance, was a sensible decision denoting a revival of Arab solidarity and a fresh desire for coordination among all parties with the aim of achieving a comprehensive settlement on all fronts.

It is no longer a secret that, over the past long months, the United States and Israel tried to fragment the Arab position in order to be able to deal with each Arab side separately, and they did so by leaking reports and information about partial solutions and by offering solutions for one front and delaying such solutions on other fronts.

It seems that these U.S.-Israeli attempts are beginning to backfire. So far, no Arab state has agreed to return unilaterally to the negotiating table. The five-party Damascus meeting adopted the Palestinian six points which call for the repatriation of the deportees, the inclusion of Jerusalem in the agenda, and a clear Israeli renunciation of the policy of deportation.

This collective Arab stand certainly puts Washington in a difficult position. Washington was instrumental in creating that difficult position when, during Christopher's tour, it tried to sell Israeli ideas and positions to the Arabs thinking that, because of the current weakness, they would have no choice but to accept.

The Palestinian side was the pioneer in this when it said "no" to that flagrant U.S. partiality to Israel and when the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation rejected the U.S. invitation and insisted on their just demands calling for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian question, the latest being Resolution 799 requesting immediate repatriation of the deportees.

Refusing to receive the invitation does not mean that the Palestinians do not want peace or that they do not want to go back to the negotiating table. In fact it confirms their seriousness about moving toward that goal by demanding that the elements necessary to success be provided for the negotiations and urging a search for new ways to end the deadlock of the past eight rounds.

The Damascus meeting has succeeded in throwing the ball strongly back into the U.S.-Israeli court. If Washington really wants a settlement, it should create the right atmosphere for the return of the Arab delegations to the negotiating table. The most important step in that direction would be the repatriation of the deportees and cessation of the deportation policy.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Washington presents a good opportunity, particularly as President Mubarak has, before his departure, met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and discussed with them all aspects of the negotiations and the current situation in the region. He will submit the results of his talks to the new U.S. President Bill Clinton. He will be the first Arab leader to meet with the U.S. President.

We do not believe that there is any Arab party more sincere and effective than Egypt for conveying the Arab views on peace to the new U.S. Administration. President Mubarak is known for his friendship with the West and his close alliance with the U.S. Administration on the affairs of the region. That is why we expect his efforts to be appreciated and responded to.

The fact which Washington should realize can be summed up in a few sentences. The main thing is that there can be no stability in the region so long as Israel remains above international law and so long as Washington continues to side with it and give it protection at the Security Council.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Meeting To Discuss Major Islamic Issues

BK0104035493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] All major issues confronting the Islamic world will be discussed at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] beginning in Karachi on 24 April. These include Kashmir, the demolition of Babri Mosque, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Middle East and the Palestine problem, the situation in Afghanistan and Cyprus. The meeting's agenda will be based on 100 matters in political, economic, cultural and administrative fields. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will inaugurate the meeting.

Our diplomatic correspondent says that 51 member countries of the ICO will attend the meeting and most of them will be represented by their foreign ministers. The Pakistan delegation at the meeting will be led by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Interviewed on Land Day

JN3103185593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Your Excellency, president Yasir 'Arafat: The Palestinians both inside the occupied land and in exile have commemorated Land Day—the anniversary of the martyrdom of Palestinians who were gunned down by Israel in 1976 in the Galilee. This day has turned into a Palestinian nationalist event. Would you define for us the symbolism of the occasion?

['Arafat] To begin with, the fact must be made known to all that Palestine, from where Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven and the cradle of Jesus Christ, was blessed by God and that it properly belongs to the Palestinian people. By the logic of history, tradition, and religion we say: But we delivered him and his nephew Lut and directed them to the land which we have blessed for the nations. [Koranic verses] Which means that this land has been hallowed not for the sake of the Palestinians alone; it has been declared sacred for the entire world. This explains why the Palestinian people have such a firm grip on this land of their fathers and forefathers—the land of prophets and divine messages. All the prophets and messengers were either born or walked there. Thus, it is understandable why we are so wedded to this land. We are the servants of this land; we are its guardians; the Palestinian people are destined by fate to defend and fight for this land. Prophet Muhammad was once heard to say: A part of my ummah will continue to be recognizable to their enemies, and to hold fast to their creed, and those who court their enmity will fail in their endeavor to harm them, and, with God's help, this part of my ummah will triumph. The messenger of God was then asked: Who are these and where are they? In and around Jerusalem, answered the prophet. This part of the ummah will be in a state of readiness until the day of judgment. We have been privileged by God to have been made the servants of this land, and to have been mobilized until the day of judgment. Glory to God who did take His servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque whose precincts we did bless. [Koranic verse]. We have been privileged by God to be faithful guardians and defenders of this land. We will remain so. This anniversary comes to remind us that this is Arab territory and shall remain so.

[Salamah] Brother, president Yasir 'Arafat: In light of what you have said, we can say Israel is trying, as you know, to Judaize the entire holy land of Palestine by stripping it of its Arab identity. It is also carrying out geological excavations to obtain proof and tell the world that the Jews were the first to reside in the land of Palestine?

['Arafat] We will quote the Torah itself. Moses left Egypt for Palestine, which God blessed—the land of our Canaanites and [word indistinct] grandfathers. Moses did not enter it. He saw it, but he did not enter. The Torah says he saw it but did not enter, although some stories say that he saw it and entered it when he came to the Midian residents and married one of their girls. I say that they came from there to the land of the Canaanites, but they did not reach the coast, even at the height of their glory. Therefore, they did not want Gaza because it is on the coast. In the north, there were our Phoenician grandfathers, who were of Canaanite origin. Our grandfathers also lived in Gaza in the south. I also want to remind you of something. When David lost his kingdom, according to the Torah, he took refuge with the king of the Palestinians in Sebaste and stayed with him for four years. He then restored his kingdom with the help of the Palestinian army. This is mentioned in the Torah. I say nothing from my mind.

[Salamah] Why does Israel always ignore these historical realities?

['Arafat] When they found nothing wrong with the rose, they blamed it for being red! No one can change history, geography, or this land. As I told you, this land is Arab and it speaks Arabic and will continue to speak Arabic. Do you understand? We delivered him and his nephew Lut and directed them to the land which we have blessed for the nations. [Koranic verse]. We admit that this land is holy to the entire world. It is holy to the Jews, to the Christians, and to the Muslims. Therefore, we have been custodians of this land, these holy places, and this cultural heritage since the dawn of history. They must remember this. No one can distort history or geography. No one can cover the sun with his hands.

[Salamah] Your Excellency, president Yasir 'Arafat: Let us stay within the framework of historical actions. The United Nations decided to partition the land of Palestine into two states in its famous Resolution 181. The Palestinian leadership, headed by you, agreed to all UN resolutions related to the Palestine question. Did the Palestinian state's draft plan, which you announced in Algeria in 1988, imply geographical claims inside Israel's pre-1967 borders?

['Arafat] Let us be precise. Resolution 242 provides for the inadmissibility of occupying others' land by force. This should be clear. This is Resolution 242, on which the peace process is based. Everyone says that he agrees to Resolution 242. When we announced the independence document, we said: Despite the injustice done to us in the UN partition resolution, we (?accept) Resolutions 242 and 338. We are very clear on this matter. It should also be clear that everything can be put on the table. We have the right to say whatever we like, and they have the right to say that Moses came before the Canaanites. History, facts, and everything can confirm [our claims]. Let them say whatever they like, and we are stating our facts. Our facts are entrenched in the land. For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [Koranic verse]

[Salamah] Brother, president Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]: Let us relate history to the present. The Israeli occupation authorities yesterday sealed off the Gaza Strip, and today they sealed off the West Bank, thereby bringing all the occupied Palestinian territories under siege and isolating them from the world...

['Arafat, interrupting] Two and a quarter million Palestinians are isolated from the world.

[Salamah] Yes. What are the objectives which Israel is seeking through such persistence and escalation in the repressive actions against the Palestinians?

['Arafat] I would like to tell him [Rabin] that I issued a statement from Cairo, which was a statement of peace. I told him that the permissible is obvious and the forbidden is also obvious, and that violence only breeds violence. Rabin can only blame himself and should know that there are mighty people in this land. Rabin's very sophisticated aircraft, tanks, missiles, and nuclear and atomic bombs cannot subdue us. There are mighty people in this land. I told him that violence only breeds violence. Peace breeds peace. Rabin can only blame himself if he continues this iron-fist policy, of which he is boastful and proud. What will be the result of this policy? Does he believe that he can corner the Palestinian people? No, by God. The Palestinian people are like a tiger, and no one can corner a tiger. This should be a well-known fact, brothers. This should be well-known to everyone. Therefore, I told Rabin that the firing of armor-piercing rockets from helicopters at the camps [sentence incomplete as heard]. What are the houses in the camps [made of], Salah? The number of children killed last month exceeded that from any other month.

[Salamah] A record number of Palestinian victims. Yes.

['Arafat] Since the beginning of the intifadah, 60 percent of our 1,700-1,800 martyrs have been under the age of 16. Despite this, I say that we have mighty people among us. Do they believe that the killing of a three-year-old child, who was playing with a toy on the 'Id, will not engender violence? Do they believe that those children have no brothers, no fathers, no neighbors? I do not want to speak about the wounded, the captives, and detainees who are greater than their jailers.

I would like to tell him that violence only produces violence. Our hands are extended to make peace, the peace of brave men, not the capitulation of which they are thinking. They will find nobody who will accept capitulation or relinquish this land. None of us will relinquish Jerusalem or a grain of the homeland's soil. This must be understood. We are advocates of peace. But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace and trust in God. [Koranic verse]

[Salamah] Brother, president Abu-'Ammar: World public opinion is witnessing escalating Israeli repression of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territory while, and on the other hand, it is hearing Israeli calls for peace. Is this actual repression in harmony with these verbal calls for peace?

['Arafat] No, no. I am also addressing the world. How much longer will the world continue to deal with international legitimacy in double standards? They follow one standard against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation while following another standard in the interest of Israel. How long will this continue? We have a right to ask. They should understand that if it is a peace without justice, there will be no peace. It is either a Palestinian peace, or there will be no peace. If it is not a Palestinian peace—that is, recognizing the national and political rights of the Palestinian people—there will be no peace, o brothers. This is because the Palestine question is the crux of conflict in the Middle East. Sinai, the Golan, and southern Lebanon stem from the Palestine question. However, the crux of the conflict in the Middle East is the Palestine question and the Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine.

[Salamah] Brother Abu-'Ammar, as we all know, the Israeli repression has not, as yet, succeeded in quelling the popular wrath and the hostile feelings toward the occupation?

['Arafat] As I told you, we have mighty people among us.

[Salamah] Yes, and the intifadah experiences a qualitative escalation from time to time?

['Arafat] Not only this. I have told the people: Let the ground burn under the invaders' feet. This should be understood by those near and far.

[Salamah] Could you tell us where the intifadah is heading in terms of weapons of confrontation, the ability to stand fast, and the set targets?

['Arafat] So far, the intifadah is still in the sixth stage. We have not yet entered the seventh stage with all its dimensions. What they are now experiencing is simply violence in response to their violence.

[Salamah] What are the features of this seventh stage?

['Arafat] Salah, let us keep it as a surprise. As I told you, we have mighty people among us. Truly did God fulfill the vision of His apostle: Ye shall enter the sacred mosque, if God wills, with minds secure. And to enter your temple as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verses]

If they think they can perform a war dance around the 17- or 18- year-old martyr Khalid in Yatta, who was tied up before being killed, and if this is their idea of civilization, then they are mistaken. We do not accept this. Let this be known, O brothers.

[Salamah] Your Excellency, president Abu-'Ammar: You visited Cairo and met with President Husni Mubarak and many senior Egyptian officials. Is there a joint Egyptian-Palestinian move to remove the current obstacles to the resumption of peace talks?

['Arafat] You know there is an Egyptian move in this direction. President Mubarak has sent envoys, including his foreign minister as well as his adviser, Dr. Usamah [al-Baz], to meet with Peres and Rabin. Moreover, His Majesty King Hassan [of Morocco] and my brothers here in Tunis are making similar efforts. This is in addition to those efforts being made by Egypt and Syria, through the

Egyptian-Syrian initiative aimed at removing these obstacles. There are also the efforts made by the cordon states, which yesterday postponed making a decision until all good avenues of Arab and international mediation efforts are explored.

[Salamah] On the international level, is there any hope that President Bill Clinton's administration will exert pressure to make Israel remove the obstacles facing the resumption of negotiations?

['Arafat] If the obstacles are not removed, I have the right to ask President Clinton: Where are those human rights he is calling for? Is he calling for human rights for the entire world, except the Palestinians? Where is the democracy he is calling for? Do the Palestinians not have a right to self-determination? Is this not our right, just as it is the right of all the peoples of the world? Or, do human rights and democracy have double standards as well? Well, I have the right to ask the new U.S. Administration these questions. It is also my right to tell this administration that we received a promise from [former U.S. Secretary of State] Baker concerning the resumption of dialogue with the PLO. Will his administration continue to ignore this issue by not restoring the dialogue with the PLO? With whom are they negotiating? This very delegation is announcing that it is an indivisible part of the PLO. In other words, the U.S. Administration is trying to cover the sun with its hands. Is this reasonable?

I want to tell all those near and far that we are continuing our intifadah and our resistance to occupation. This is our right based on the UN Charter and resolutions, on our divine right, and on all international and domestic norms, and proceeding from pan-Arab understandings and our righteous religion. Therefore, we have the right to defend our homeland, honor, children, women, and our Islamic and Christian holy places.

[Salamah] Brother Abu-'Ammar, as you mentioned to us earlier, you will chair a meeting of the Palestinian leadership to assess Arab and international contacts related to the peace process, and to examine the possibility of Palestinian participation in the ninth round of negotiations. Would you define the features of the trends which you wish to adopt in this meeting?

['Arafat] I cannot tell you everything. As you know, we are adhering to this Palestinian democracy. Before anything else, we present things to our brothers on the Executive Committee and in the Palestinian leadership. During this meeting of the Palestinian leadership, we will discuss all that has been achieved since the end of the last round of negotiation until now, all the developments in our occupied land—whether they are attempts of repression, brutality, and displacement or attempts of resistance, steadfastness, and escalation of our blessed intifadah—which will continue one wave after another until the Palestinian flag is raised atop the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. We will also discuss our internal affairs and the march of the Palestinian institutions, whether through the executive or legislative institution. All these basic issues will be discussed, God willing, during the next meeting of the Palestinian leadership.

[Salamah] Brother, president Yasir 'Arafat: We began this interview with the occasion of Land Day and we will end it with this occasion. What is the message of president 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership's message to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation on the occasion of Land Day?

['Arafat] I will quote a verse from the Holy Koran: And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verse] Yes, we will establish a firm place in our land—this the land of our ancestors. Our ancestors were buried in this land and our grandsons will be buried here as well. There is a long way to go before our struggle is settled, but we can wait. We are as steady as mountains. We are as solid as mountains.

[Salamah] Thanks to president Yasir 'Arafat for this interview with Radio Monte Carlo.

['Arafat] Thank you. Together until we achieve victory, God willing.

[Salamah] God willing.

Al-Husayni: Closure 'New Obstacle' to Peace

LD3103215293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Brother Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian delegation [to the peace talks], considered that the sealing off of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday could be seen as a new obstacle to the peace process. Al-Husayni said that this measure was part of numerous measures under the title of collective punishments which are individual or collective obstacles including those which could be considered as ways of hindering the peace process, some of which could be removed.

Brother Faysal Husayni added that it would have been more useful for the Israeli Government to strive for a real, comprehensive peace that would serve openness and achieve security instead of endeavoring to maintain the state of occupation from which the only result is more suffering and more human losses.

With regard to the increasing wave of violence, al-Husayni emphasized that the present problem can only be solved by finding a comprehensive political solution based on international legality and the implementation of UN resolutions. Otherwise we will be caught and sink deeper in this whirlpool for which all the parties will pay a dear price.

Al-Husayni Wants Problems Resolved, Talks Resumed

TA0104122193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The closure of the territories adds yet another obstacle to resuming the peace negotiations, but we all want to resolve the problem and return to the talks, Faysal al-Husayni told a news conference in East Jerusalem today. Moti Gadish was there:

[Begin recording] [Gadish] The leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks returned from Washington to a new reality in the territories: an open-ended blockade on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi told a news conference in East Jerusalem that Israel is adding to the pressures on the Palestinian residents and turning the territories into what she called a collective jail instead of dealing with the elements that are the cause of the violence. She said the blockade undermines the Palestinians' trust in the political process.

Faysal al-Husayni said that in the present situation, with the deportees still in Lebanon and the territories under closure, it will be difficult for the delegation to return to the negotiating table.

[Al-Husayni] The closure makes things very hard and adds another difficulty to the negotiations, but you know that we all want to overcome this problem and return to the negotiations.

[Gadish] Is lifting the blockade a condition for the Palestinian delegation's return to Washington?

[Al-Husayni] I do not want to start negotiations with the Israeli Government over the radio. If anything should come up, we have ways to talk.

[Gadish] The current situation, al-Husayni said, shows how urgent it is to achieve a comprehensive solution in the Middle East. We must do all we can to overcome the obstacles, he said. [end recording]

Greater European Role in Peace Process Urged

LD3103222693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, yesterday called on the European Community to take on a participatory role alongside the two sponsors of the peace conference. He stressed that the European role should not be confined to the framework of the multilateral committees. Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that the Palestinians will draw the attention of the Europeans to the need to play an active role with the aim of bringing about the American-Palestinian dialogue at the highest levels and breaking the economic and political embargo which many powers are attempting to impose on the Palestinian people for political ends.

Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that Israel and the United States want to confine the European role within a limited framework and this is harmful to European interests and will not assist the peace process. Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh considered that the results of the Palestinian delegation's talks on Friday [26 March] and Sunday in Washington were general, obscure, and devoid of any tangible new developments.

Sha'th Calls Washington Talks 'Insufficient'

LD3103193493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Brother Nabil Sha'th, adviser of Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has said the results of the Washington talks were insufficient. He indicated that this may lead to a delay in the peace process. Sha'th said agreement was not reached on a timetable acceptable to the PLO regarding the return of the Palestinian deportees or on a formula that ensures that Israel will not resort to the deportation decision in the future.

Sha'th added we want peace and are serious and convinced that peace has rules, and if any delay happens it is because the rules were not respected.

'Ashrawi Interviewed on Peace Process

PM0103102293 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 28 Mar 93 p 14

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Henrique Cymerman in Ramallah; date not given]

[Text] Ramallah—"I honestly believe that the fundamentalists have been overestimated and that what is happening is that, since there is no progress in the peace process and the human rights situation is deteriorating, people are tending to move toward more absolutist and spiritual stances," Hanan 'Ashrawi stated in an interview granted to LA VANGUARDIA at her home in Ramallah. The spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation in the peace negotiations acknowledged that the fundamentalists'popularity is growing, but stressed that support for the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fundamentalist movement does not exceed 20 percent.

[Cymerman] But the Israelis say that since you are the only people who did not accept the invitation to the bilateral talks in Washington, the moderate Palestinians, like yourself, are being influenced by Hamas...

['Ashrawi] It is not true. Israel is creating feelings of hostility, skepticism, bitterness, and anger by persisting in a policy of cruelty and abuses in the occupied territories. This has reduced the level of support for the talks. I believe that the influence comes more from Israel than from the so-called fundamentalists. In order to revitalize the peace process in April, we must remove the obstacles created by the Israelis, both in the matter of the deportees and in the inhuman situation in the territories.

[Cymerman] Prime Minister Rabin told this newspaper that he will not impose democracy on the Palestinians, in order not to strengthen the fundamentalists. Would you prefer not to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza?

['Ashrawi] That view on the part of Rabin is distorted. We are firmly committed to holding democratic elections. The obstacle is the occupation, since it is incompatible with freedom and democracy. What we need are the conditions conducive to free elections. This cannot be accomplished through collective punishments, curfews, or closed areas. If an interim agreement is reached with Israel, Palestinian self-government and elections will be the only way to have a genuine source of authority. If Hamas won at the polls, which I doubt, that would be the people's wish and should be respected, but I believe that we—the PLO national coalition—enjoy the majority's support.

[Cymerman] Is Hamas responsible for the attack on the World Trade Center in New York?

['Ashrawi] I do not believe so. It has not claimed responsibility for it, and has stated that these actions are contrary to the teaching of Islam. I refrain from trying to export fear and mass paranoia about Hamas.

[Cymerman] Amid a wave of fundamentalist stabbings in Israel, the formula of an immediate and unilateral withdrawal from Gaza is increasingly popular. How do you view that possibility?

['Ashrawi] It is an emotional and partly racial reaction. They cannot control Gaza because it is a hard nut to crack, but it is Israel which has created that situation. A unilateral withdrawal will not resolve the problem. We will not ask them to stay, but we believe that what they should do is to withdraw from all the territories, and allow the election and setting up of a Palestinian government. Otherwise, we will end up with tremendous instability.

[Cymerman] It is said that the heart of the conflict is the Palestinian issue, but that the key lies in Damascus, which, according to rumors, is approaching an agreement with Israel...

['Ashrawi] This is a false analogy. If the heart of the conflict is the Palestinian issue, then the key lies in the Palestinian issue. Syria is perhaps a key for creating opportunities, but not for separate agreements. It is very difficult for any Arab leader to say that he will conclude a separate agreement, which would sell out the Palestinians. As is known, the status quo in our region is not progressing; it is regressing and deteriorating, so we must take the bull by the horns and move forward. The year 1993 could be a year of peace; it should be, and if it is not, it will be a missed opportunity with grave consequences for the future.

[Cymerman] Do you believe that the Clinton administration is too pro-Israeli?

['Ashrawi] So far we have seen no administration that is not so. The United States has never been impartial and has always supported Israel, to the extent of rescuing it from the consequences of its own actions. The new administration faces the challenge of adopting a more impartial policy, because otherwise it will disqualify itself from the peace process.

[Cymerman] As a Christian and as a woman, you are doubly in a minority in the Palestinian leadership...

['Ashrawi] I do not have a minority mentality, and I feel fully and genuinely Palestinian. We are one of the oldest Christian communities in the world, and for me that is a source of authenticity. We are also a society which has traditionally been dominated by men, but we have a strong feminist movement.

[Cymerman] There are those in the Palestinian movement who say that women are the "national womb..."

['Ashrawi] What we Palestinian women need is to be treated as human beings—not as symbols.

Delegation Adviser Says 'No Other Way' But Talks

TA3103150693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the advisory committee to the Palestinian peace talks delegation, by Shalom Oren—live]

[Text] [Oren] What impact do you think the blockade and the situation in Israel will have on the peace talks?

[Abu-Zayyad] First, let us talk about what impact it will have on the Arab population. I believe it will have a negative impact, in particular on villages and areas around Jerusalem, but in general it affects the entire West Bank because when the residents of the region are banned from entering Jerusalem, the West Bank is cut in two, south and north. Somebody living in Ramallah cannot reach Bethlehem, and somebody in Bethlehem cannot reach Ramallah. That means hundreds of students who live around Jerusalem and do not have high schools in their villages cannot reach school in East Jerusalem. Hundreds of workers who work in the Jerusalem Arab area cannot go to work as well. The same applies to dozens of Arab businessmen from the villages around Jerusalem who own shops in East Jerusalem cannot open their businesses.

[Oren] Could the Israeli Government choose a different option?

[Abu-Zayyad] I understand very well the difficult situation of the Israeli Government. I know that we have to separate the rivals. I accept Mr. Rabin's idea of separation, but it could be done in a manner that does not hurt those who should not be hurt. I believe that East Jerusalem should be given a special status, because it is the West Bank's central station. Let us set aside the political aspect, over which we have and will argue. In practical, everyday terms, the Palestinians in the West Bank

should be allowed free access to East Jerusalem, which is the meeting point for all parts of the West Bank.

[Oren] Do you believe that the terror acts and murders of the past several weeks were perpetrated by individuals or as part of a scheme; or do the squad members receive instructions from abroad?

[Abu-Zayyad] First of all, I hurt for and wish to express my regret over the loss of human lives on both sides. I believe the fatalities on both sides are victims of the ongoing occupation. If we want to put an end to the pain and suffering of all sides, we must realize that there is no other way but peace negotiations, which will propel the process forward and lead to a political solution of the problem through agreements.

[Oren] Do you not believe that the recent terror attacks will eventually harm the peace process?

[Abu-Zayyad] I believe that all of us who support the peace process on both sides, the Israeli and the Palestinian, should learn a lesson from the recent events and realize that we must take more purposeful action to allow the talks to yield fruit. We should not lose heart or surrender. We, on both sides, have to work together to get out of this trap.

[Oren] Do you have any influence over the terror squads or others who carry out terror acts?

[Abu-Zayyad] A large part of those acts are perpetrated by individuals who have their own individual motivations, such as experiencing certain things as a result of which they decide to take action on their own. Neither we nor you can tell what goes through such men's heads. I believe that if the peace process starts moving forward, and if we begin to give hope to the people that we are moving in the direction of a solution, it will contribute a lot to calming the situation and will help the Palestinian leadership tell the people and convince them, and reduce the extent of violent acts to the minimum.

[Oren] Who on the Palestinian side could be interested in torpedoing the peace talks?

[Abu-Zayyad] Look, there is an opposition to the peace talks. It certainly does not want the process moving forward. The current freeze adds fuel to the fire of their activities against the peace process. It provides them with arguments against the peace process and those who support it. Therefore, we can help each other. If Israel's Government comes to the negotiating table with a more practical attitude, seeing to it that the peace process really moves forward, it will be helping us as well as themselves, and will also be making it hard for the opposition to the peace process to argue its case. Nevertheless, what it is doing now, both in the field and in the talks, is making it difficult for the supporters of the peace process and provides the opposition with ammunition.

[Oren] In short, will the delegation arrive in Washington in three weeks?

[Abu-Zayyad] I very much hope so. I believe that we must all realize that there is no other way. I hope they will get there, and I have reason to believe they will.

Christopher Said Sent 'Secret' Messages to Arabs

JN0104092593 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 93 pp 1, 17

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] A Palestinian source, who attended the cordon states foreign ministers' meetings that concluded in Damascus two days ago, has revealed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher sent a secret message to all the convening ministers, excluding the Palestinian side.

The Palestinian source told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the U.S. secretary's message contained the results of meetings by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, with U.S. administration officials that were recently held in Washington.

The source added that in his message, Christopher affirmed that al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi had responded positively to the U.S. proposals.

The source said that the U.S. secretary hinted in his message to the foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, as well as Egypt, which attended the meetings, that Palestinian officials al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi expressed willingness to attend the ninth round of negotiations expected to resume later this month.

The Palestinian source added that Christopher's message also emphasized that the Israeli Government would make a positive offer concerning the deportee issue as soon as the ninth round begins.

Responding to a question, the source said that on the sidelines of the cordon states meetings, the Syrian and Palestinian sides held a meeting during which the Syrian side emphasized its decisive stand not to attend the negotiations unless the Palestinian delegation attends.

The Palestinian source said that the Palestinian side was very pleased with and praised the Syrian stand because it embodies a united Arab stand.

In another development, members of the PLO Executive Committee, who were in Amman, have begun arriving in Tunis, home of the Palestinian leadership, to attend a PLO Executive Committee meeting. This meeting will deal with the results of al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi's talks with U.S. Administration officials and the results of the cordon states foreign ministers' meeting in order to pave the way for an expanded discussion of these results during the Palestinian leadership's meetings that will be chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, on Saturday, 3 April.

The meetings of the Palestinian leadership will particularly focus on the escalating situation in the occupied Arab territories for more than a month.

The Palestinian president is expected to send messages to some European leaders, urging them to put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation.

U.S. Asked To Fulfill Role of 'Full Partner'

TA3103140293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 31 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Facing A Historic Crossroad"]

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers who ended their meeting in Damascus two days ago did not decide to participate in the ninth round of negotiations on its fixed date, 20 April, in Washington. Neither did they decide not to participate. Hence, they left an opportunity for further discussions with the U.S. side, or the U.S. sponsor, which at the same time is "a full partner" in the creation and realization of the peace process in the region. It is clear that such an opportunity is basically linked to the results of the meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton on 6 April. Can that expected meeting provide an Arab ability to "convince" the Arab parties of the benefit of the upcoming round of negotiations, or will it be on the opposite?

The issue is not so easy in terms of a direct question and answer. What we are witnessing now on all levels represents a historic and decisive turning point. President 'Arafat was very clear when upon his meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo two days ago, stated that "we are standing today at a historic crossroad. Either everyone seizes the opportunity to achieve a just and balanced peace, or we will enter into a bitter struggle."

Our Palestinian strategy is firmly based on this peace and on devoting all sincere efforts to avoid losing the current opportunity. As in the past, however, the problem lies with the U.S. position, which is in harmony with and supports the Israeli position at all times.

Since, as acknowledged by all the parties, we are facing a historic and decisive crossroad, Washington is now required to be absolutely clear and fulfill its role of full partner with the aim of achieving a peace enhanced by justice and international legitimacy.

U.S. Should Assume 'Full Responsibility' for Talks

TA3103152593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 Mar 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Difficulties Impeding the Peace Process"]

[Text] Undoubtedly, speculating about the presence of this or that Arab party at the negotiating table is premature, because there are several Palestinian, Arab, and even international factors that have not yet crystallized. There is, however, a great difference between Washington's success in pressing the Arab delegations to participate—if it can do this at all—and leading the negotiations in the right direction, toward a just and honorable peace, which is the strategic orientation of the Palestinians and the Arabs in general.

In order to alter the gloomy prospect of the tragic situation in the region, the United States must shoulder its full responsibility in terms of its announced determination to become a full partner in the negotiations. A full partner views the aspirations of all the other partners equally, be it the Israeli or Arab partners. Israel, too, should display a real and serious aspiration toward peace and take into consideration the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, on the basis of what international legitimacy has approved in all its charters and resolutions issued by the United Nations and the Security Council.

Despite the fact that the talks held by the Palestinian delegation in Washington were not encouraging, as sources in the delegation have affirmed that the U.S. proposal on Palestinian rights contained prior conditions, the United States can make serious commitments followed by genuine practical steps.

If Washington were to give such pledges regarding Israeli positions on pending issues, Israel would be required to actually approve the U.S. pledges and commitments. The real difficulty lies in the declared Israeli position on the deportee issue on one hand, and the unwillingness of the United States so far to apply pressure in order to bring about a change in the Israeli position on the other.

It is extremely important to end this complexity reached in the peace process. The resumption of negotiations is not the goal. Even if U.S. pressure succeeds in bringing the delegations to the negotiating table, more important than that is bridging the gap between fundamental differences over basic issues—differences that have led the previous eight rounds to their current situation.

U.S. Said Responsible for Deadlock in Peace Process

TA3103175793 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 31 Mar 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Washington Bears the Responsibility"]

[Text] Upon returning from Washington, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian-U.S. talks, which lasted about seven hours, did not achieve practical results despite the fact that they contained positive indications and highlighted the seriousness of the U.S. position and Washington's concern to achieve progress in the peace process. She, however, added that this concern and those indications require clarification, practical content, and an implementation mechanism because the Palestinian people are no longer satisfied with good intentions, which have proved their lack of seriousness during the peace process. Dr. 'Ashrawi

affirmed that U.S.-Palestinian contacts will continue in order to overcome the obstacles preventing the resumption of negotiations.

It transpires from Dr. 'Ashrawi's remarks that the talks conducted by the Palestinian delegation in Washington were not successful and that Washington did not provide any indication of its adherence to neutrality and lack of bias toward any party. The U.S. Administration is continuing its support of Israel. Therefore, it will not be an active partner in the peace process. This stance deprives it of credibility among the Arab parties. Despite the Palestinian side's request for the removal of all obstacles hindering the convocation of the upcoming round of talks, U.S. officials refused to respond to the Palestinian demands. On the deportee issue, Washington declared its refusal to link this issue with the resumption of negotiations. As for the Israeli escalation against Palestinians and Israel's human rights violations, the U.S. Administration called on all parties to exercise restraint. Secretary of State Christopher stated that the only way to emerge from the cycle of violence is a return to negotiations.

Hence, it seems clear that U.S. reluctance to intervene actively in the peace process is a major obstacle preventing the success of the negotiating process. The Palestinians are aware that the United States will never abandon its ally, Israel. It is, however, in the interest of Israel and the peoples of the entire region for the United States to have credibility and enjoy the confidence of all the parties. This is the means for bridging the gap and overcoming doubts about the intentions of the parties to the conflict in the region.

The Palestinian side showed flexibility in the talks with Christopher. Its proposals to the U.S. side called for repatriating the deportees within a time frame not exceeding mid-summer, in return for Israel's pledge to abolish the deportation policy. The Palestinians are ready, on this basis, to participate in the upcoming round. The U.S. side neither stated its acceptance nor rejection of this proposal out of fear of hurting the feelings of the Israelis. The situation on the Palestinian and Israeli sides is such that it has become impossible for their leaders to show any flexibility on the grounds that this would indicate weakness and capitulation.

If the Palestinian side is interested in participating in the upcoming round, ending the conflict, and reaching at once a phased settlement leading to a final one after several years, the Palestinian street has lost confidence in the possibility of achieving progress in the talks. This, in turn, makes it difficult to embark on compromises. Likewise, on the Israeli side, the escalation of Palestinian acts against Israelis makes the ruling Israeli leadership fearful of displaying any flexibility. This leadership is already being accused by many parties in Israel of renouncing certain rights although it has not expressed its readiness to respond to Palestinian or even U.S. demands.

Through this review of the situation, the United States is called upon more than ever before to intervene quickly as a real partner in the negotiations and as a contributing element in achieving a breakthrough. No breakthrough whatsoever will be achieved if Washington continues to play the role of a spectator, sitting in the back seat watching a drama.

Algeria

Foreigners Reportedly Behind Barracks Attack

LD3103212093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] We have drawn two important conclusions from the National Gendarmerie Command's statement on the attack on Bougzoul barracks. The first concerns the harki [Algerian who fought on the side of the French during the Algerian war] and the second is on the discovery of Israeli weapons with the terrorist group which carried out the attack on the barracks. More with Said Brahimi.

[Brahimi] The attack, which was carried out by a 35-strong terrorist group on the Bougzoul Barracks for repairing [military] equipment, some 20 km from Ksar El Boukhari town, has revealed once again the premeditated intention of Algeria's enemies under the cover of Islam despite the fact that the latter has nothing whatsoever to do with such people. Is it logical at all that Muslims' blood should be shed in the holy month of Ramadan only a few minutes before the call for the break in fasting and on the eve of the holy 'Id? Can anyone find any sense at all in the mutilation of soldiers whose task was the protection of the homeland and the citizens? This vile attack has unveiled the involvement of some elements who were yesterday against Algeria's independence and were helping French colonialism in killing Algerians. Today they are today doing the same thing—being harkis once more under the cover of the true religion which was the motto of the Algerian revolution against colonialism. [passage omitted].

The terrorist who was killed a few days ago following the attack on the Bougzoul barracks was the son of a harki. He had been wanted by the security services and was known for his travels to the Middle East using a French passport. Here one can find the relationship between him, the harki, and the Israeli weapon known as Scorpion [as heard: referent item stated weapon was Czech], which was discovered by the security forces in the possession of the terrorist group. The security forces and the Algerian people came to the conclusion a long time ago that the terrorists were harboring enmity for Algeria, that they did not like Algeria's independence, and that they have been working with foreign hands to form groups that collect money and weapons to destabilize Algeria. [passage omitted]

Constantine Court Passes Five Death Sentences

LD3103132493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] During a marathon session, the special court in Constantine has passed a number of sentences, including the death sentence. Hayat Ounadi reports from Constantine with details of the sentences:

[Ounadi] Five death sentences and one of imprisonment were passed on 30 March by the special court at the Constantine Justice Council, during a marathon trial that lasted over 10 hours. Azzedine Soualeb, 24, was present to receive one of the five death sentences. He is the principal accused in the case of the assassination of two security officers, Belhalouani Sebti and Ouachria Amar.

Another death sentence was passed against Zouheir Bouguedar, who was implicated in the killing of Ouachria Amar.

Azzedine Lekiket was sentenced to 15 years in prison, a fine of 10 million centimes and to be stripped of all his national rights for five years.

During yesterday's trial, the special court at the Constantine Justice Council also passed death sentences in absentia on three others, who are at large, on charges of [words indistinct], taking part in establishing a terrorist group, and killing public security officers.

Turkish Foreign Minister Continues Official Visit

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD3103190593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin was received today in private by Mr Redha Malek, foreign minister and member of the Higher State council, in El-Mithaq residence. The talks, which later expanded to include the delegations of the two countries, dealt with bilateral relations and ways to give a new boost to various forms of cooperation in addition to international issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting of the Algerian and Turkish delegations, an agreement in principle was reached for cooperation in various fields. The Turkish official had arrived in Algeria last night on an official three-day visit in response to an invitation by Foreign Minister Redha Malek.

Confers With Ali Kafi

LD3103202193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC], received today at the presidency Mr. Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister. The meeting dealt with a number of a regional and international topics. After the meeting the Turkish minister made the following statement to Samia Azzi:

[Begin Cetin recording in Turkish with superimposed Arabic translation] We had fruitful talks with the HSC chairman. It was an opportunity to evaluate the bilateral relations between the two countries. I have noticed, moreover, that his excellency the chairman was determined to bolster relations between Algeria and Turkey in all spheres. We dealt with a number of regional and international topics—i.e. the development in former

Yugoslavia and in the Middle East and Iraq and the situation in the former Soviet Union and the Caucasus. [end recording]

Holds News Conference

TA0104082193 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Turkey and Algeria have announced that they are opposed to the changing of national borders and governments through the use of force. Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin held a news conference in Algiers after concluding his contacts in Algeria.

Cetin declared that an agreement in principle was reached on a $100-million loan to be extended by Turkey to Algeria for use in the construction sector. The foreign minister then left for Tunisia.

Egypt

Mubarak: Possible Expulsions for Iran Diplomats

NC3103192893 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has asserted that Iran is behind the terrorist acts and bomb attacks on tourist targets in Egypt. His excellency warned the Iranian diplomats who are still in Cairo that their movements will be closely watched and that he will not hesitate to expel them if a clue surfaces linking them to the bombings.

This came in the president's interview with the British newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES. He accused Iran of trying to destabilize Egypt and said the persons who have carried out attacks in Egypt were trained in Afghanistan and Iran knew of this. He said that they later returned to Egypt via Libya and Sudan. He declared that the violent acts that have happened will not shake the government.

Mubarak called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to take effective steps to make it possible for the peace talks to be resumed as scheduled. He continued: In cooperation with the United States, we wish to assist the concerned parties to attain a just peace settlement. He pointed out that his contacts with Rabin were a major factor in bringing the various parties back to the negotiating table.

President Mubarak said it is necessary, indeed vital, for U.S. President Clinton's administration to become a full partner in the peace operation, not merely by exerting pressure on Israel but by mediating and extending assistance.

President Mubarak declared that partitioning Iraq would be a very serious matter, stressing that everyone will suffer if this happens. Explaining that Iraq's partition would pose great danger to the entire Middle East and Europe, he said he will discuss ways of helping the Iraqi people with President Clinton.

Mubarak Blames 'Foreign Forces' for Terrorism

AU3103142493 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 2030 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Gerd Hapellitier; place and date not given—recorded; Mubarak speaks in Arabic with superimposed German translation; italicized passage denotes Mubarak speaking in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Hapellitier] Mr. President, the security situation in your country seems to be unstable. How do you see the situation after the attacks by Islamic terrorists even against tourists?

[Mubarak] The situation in Egypt is not as it is presented by the international press, which tends to exaggerate a lot. There are fewer things going on in my country than in many other countries in the world, in Europe or the U.S., for example. There indeed have been some explosions, but they had only a slight effect. We still have many tourists, including many Germans, in Luxor, Aswan, and other places. We will bring the attackers to trial, and we are about to get the situation under control. We are actually in control of the situation. Egypt is stable. Only three tourists have died in all these months, although this is bad enough. Yet there have been more casualties among the security forces and the terrorists. Nevertheless, the situation remains stable. I repeat that the exaggerated news reports have considerable affected tourism, which we need so badly. I am sorry about that.

[Hapellitier] Do the attackers, the terrorists, come from your own country, or do you think that they are controlled from another country?

[Mubarak] This is an international problem that can be observed everywhere. Terrorism is now concentrating on Egypt because people have been used to regarding the country as an oasis of security. Now that the country has opened up, we no longer live on an island of the blessed, but we share the problems of the entire world. In the last few years we have introduced economic reform, which has also led to higher prices and a cut in subsidies. This has hurt many people and led to an increase in unemployment. Some foreign circles are now trying to put the unclear situation to their own advantage and to destabilize the country. Yet, we will stick to our course: Without economic reform there can be no prosperity.

[Hapellitier] Do I understand you correctly? You see the reason for the attacks in social problems rather than in fundamentalist religious motives?

[Mubarak] *Some are trying to cover the social motives with a religious coat to create problems. We do have social problems as a result of the economic reform. Yet, there are also old religious elements, which are not new; they are using the social problems to create instability. Yet the people behind them are foreign forces, they are not from Egypt.*

Butrus-Ghali on Mubarak's Contribution, UN Role

NC0104054493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has praised the major role President Husni Mubarak is playing in the service of peace, stability, and security in the world.

In an interview published in Thursday's [1 April] edition of AL-JUMHURIYAH, Butrus-Ghali said that President Mubarak responds positively to any request by the United Nations for help in international issues. The UN secretary general added that he is in constant touch with President Mubarak to discuss issues and problems on the world agenda and to exchange views on many issues. He affirmed that Mubarak has helped him a great deal in overcoming numerous obstacles, and has not hesitated to respond to any request or appeal to intervene with any party to facilitate the work of the United Nations or to bring views closer.

The UN secretary general noted that the issues that attract the interest of the international community represent no more than 10 percent of all UN issues, and that there are important and urgent issues and other secret issues that will be spoiled if revealed.

Butrus-Ghali affirmed that the work scope and role of the United Nations has vastly increased since the end of the cold war and that democracy has become an urgent issue in societies where democracy was not part of their culture, education, or practice. He pointed out in this regard that a UN department for democracy has been established.

He said that the number of famine victims in Somalia is much greater than the number of those killed in the civil war in the states of former Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, international public opinion did not show any interest in Somalia until after the United Nations exerted a colossal effort.

Butrus-Ghali affirmed that the new world order is the United Nations, provided the member states agree to support and assist it to carry out its mission. He noted that the United Nations is currently making preparations to hold an international conference for social development in 1995, and that Copenhagen, Denmark, has been chosen as its venue.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Peace, U.S. Policy, Iran

NC3103130093

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic on 23, 26, 27, and 28 March publishes a four-installment, approximately 20,000-word interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, by correspondent Thurayya 'Asi in Cairo. The date of the interview is not given. The first three installments appear on page 11, while the fourth installment appears on page 13.

In the first installment, appearing in the 23 March issue, Dr. al-Baz talks about his impressions following his talks with U.S. Administration officials. "The U.S. policy on the Middle East will not undergo significant change" he said, adding that "the change will involve style and approach rather than the strategy or the general framework of the American policy." Listing the reasons for this, al-Baz remarks that many of the former U.S. Administration's aides kept their jobs under the new administration, including Edward Djerejian and Dennis Ross. In addition, he notes that two pressing issues cropped up early in the new administration—Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Palestinian deportees—forcing the new U.S. Administration to "give attention to foreign issues at a very early stage." Because they were not ready to deal with these issues with "clear-cut policies," they had to "follow the policies that existed before, with very small changes," he added.

Asked whether he sees signs of change in the U.S. stand on the peace process, al-Baz said that he expects an "active U.S. role in sponsoring the peace negotiations." "If the U.S. Administration truly intends to act as a full partner, this will most probably mean it will move at the right time and put forward certain ideas—not draft resolutions—as well as alternatives to bridge the gap in views existing between the various parties," he said. As an example, al-Baz pointed out that the United States could intervene between the Israeli and Syrian sides by "putting forward various formulas that could be acceptable to both sides, thus bridging the existing gap in views without making any party fear it is making a concession." He noted that Egypt is prepared to join the United States in playing that role, but added that Egypt does not "want to be a mediator between the Arabs and Israel."

In response to a question on whether the new U.S. Administration is biased toward Israel, Al-Baz said: "I do not believe that the new U.S. Administration is more biased toward Israel." He added: "We have to admit that the Democratic Party is traditionally more willing to cooperate with Israel, because it is a liberal party. The liberal quarters within the United States are historically more inclined to deal with Israel than the conservatives." He explains that Clinton's election promises were not "specific," but rather "general" promises. Illustrating his view, al-Baz explains that when the U.S. Administration encountered the Palestinian deportees issue, it could not help but "go along with the international community, denounce deportation, call for its abrogation, and request that Israel return the deportees at once." "Had the United States been more biased toward Israel, it would have taken an indecisive stand on the issue," he said.

When the interviewer describes the agreement between the United States and Israel on the deportees issue as

indecisive, al-Baz concurred, but added that the Americans believed that this was the maximum they could get from Israel. He explains that the United States' primary concern was "to avoid being put in a position where it would be forced to either use its veto or vote against Israel. Especially when such an important resolution could have set a precedent, and would have antagonized the administration's Jewish and Zionist supporters." Al-Baz said that those Arabs who say that the current Israeli position may be "worse" than that of Shamir's are mistaken. He notes that the "Labor Party is concerned about the future and knows that it cannot live under permanent tension." "Thus, the Labor Party believes it is safer for Israel to reach a settlement acceptable to the Arabs that could enable them to live peacefully."

At the end of the first installment, al-Baz reviews the question of the deportees and Egypt's contacts with Israel, the United States, Euorpe, and other world parties to tackle this issue. He describes the deportation as "unacceptable" and notes that the Palestinians have "legitimate concerns" about the question of "transfer."

In its 26 March issue, AL-DIYAR carries the second installment of the interview.

Al-Baz reviews the deportees issue. He says that he has talked to Rabin "extensively" about that matter and that the Israelis are ready to "show some flexibility" but not to reverse "by 180 degrees" the deportation decision that has been supported by "90 percent" of the Israeli people.

Al-Baz is asked to comment on the U.S. position concerning UN Security Council Resolution 799. He recalls the strength of the pro-Israel lobby in the United States and says that the United States "does not wish to focus on the issue of the deportees and forget about the peace process. It knows that if it enters into a conflict with Israel over the deportees, Israel may stop cooperating with regard to the resumption of the negotiations."

Al-Baz then urges the Arabs to "continue the negotiations and try to improve the formula achieved so far." He mentions that during the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations, Israel's initial position was that it would not fully withdraw from Sinai, but it did so in the end. He says: "I personally tell the Palestinian brothers that they should not take the current Israeli ideas on the functions and powers of the [Palestinian authority under] self-rule as the maximum. I consider it the minimum that is being offered by Israel, and we should not accept. Somewhere between the Palestinian and Israeli positions there will be room for some weighing of options. There is a process of negotiations going on and it involves give-and-take."

Al-Baz is asked to comment on calls, within Israel, for unilateral withdrawal from Gaza. He says that Israel does not have the same ambitions for Gaza it harbors for Judea and Samaria [the West Bank], because of cultural and economic reasons. He notes that Israel had offered Gaza to Egypt during the Camp David talks, but that Egypt declined in order not to "compromise the integrity of the Palestinian soil." Al-Baz adds that "if the Palestinians themselves decide to accept a certain settlement, we prefer that the settlement would involve all the occupied territories. Even if a settlement is reached for Gaza first, Gaza should be just the beginning of implementation. Negotiations should be comprehensive."

Al-Baz is asked if he agrees that "U.S. credibility" is crucial for the achievement of peace in the Middle East. He answers by saying: "There is no doubt that the United States is the probably the most influential foreign country with regard to the talks and the task of narrowing the difference of opinions among the sides. Its credibility is very important to public opinion. If the U.S. shows bias toward Israel at the expense of the Arabs, [Arab] expectations will suffer, shaking their confidence that the U.S. Administration will take certain positions that will promote a settlement."

Al-Baz, however, warns that the Arabs would be wrong to prejudge the United States. He says: "We should not spend much time judging the intentions or credibility of the United States. The best thing is to accept the U.S. pledges in certain instances and wait to see if these pledges are honored, rather than get pessimistic beforehand."

Al-Baz is then asked about the best way to achieve Arab unity. In reply, he deplores the current Arab divisions and says that perhaps some new concepts are needed to replace the aspirations of traditional Ba'thists, Arab Nationalists, and Nasirists for "immediate unity and a merger of nations into a greater entity." He says that no Arab country should try to impose unity on another. He says "a clear definition of Arab national security" is needed, but adds that such a matter "will take time."

In the third installment of the interview, appearing on 27 March, al-Baz discusses Egypt's views on the ongoing peace talks and prospects for a solution.

Asked about Egypt's position on the recent meeting among Turkey, Syria, and Iran, which observers saw as an indication of an "as yet unformed alliance", al-Baz said: "We do not view this meeting from this angle." He added that the three parties discussed "the future of security in the region" and, "according to reliable information available to us, it was not an attempt to establish a semi-alliance or even tripartite coordination vis-a-vis the region." He added that the reason why no other Arab countries took part in the meeting is that the three countries are "adjacent to Iraq as well as to the Kurdish areas," noting that "the danger of the emergence of a Kurdish entity reflects directly on Syria, Turkey, and Iran, where Kurds live, unlike other Arabs countries." He added: "In addition, it is hard for us in Egypt, for instance, to conduct a dialogue with Iran on any subject, particularly on security subjects, since we believe that Iran is an element of threat to pan-Arab security in general and Egyptian security in particular." He noted that this matter could be discussed "at a later stage" with

Iran and Turkey after a "charter" outlining pan-Arab security and the role of each Arab country has been established.

Asked if he expects a return to the Camp-David approach should the Madrid formula fail, al-Baz said: "We believe there is no benefit in pursuing another track," because we have not given the current track a "fair chance."

Asked about reports that the Palestinians have proposed to opt out of the Madrid formula in favor of direct Palestinian-Israeli talks with the active involvement of Egypt and the United States, al-Baz said: "The Palestinians are confused, it is something that leads them to advance many and different ideas to drum up support by the active international parties." He emphasizes that "a search for other forms of Palestinian representation is a matter fraught with risks and could take a long time, which is not in our interest."

On the future of the Palestinian people, al-Baz said that at the conclusion of the autonomy's interim period, negotiations will start on the future of the occupied territories. He added: "We imagine that a Palestinian state will be set up with confederal ties to Jordan, and perhaps with Syria too." Regarding Palestinians in the diaspora, he said that under a "settlement," "some of them will return to the occupied territories, even to Israel proper." The problem, he added, will be the number of those to return.

Asked whether UN Resolution 425 on Lebanon could be implemented, al-Baz notes that the resolution calls for the unconditional and immediate Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territories and as such, "Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is not part of the peace process." He notes that the Israeli troops are present in Lebanon "against the will of the Lebanese people and state." As for the Syrian presence in Lebanon, he said "this question should be discussed between Lebanon and Syria within the framework of the relations of brotherhood and neighborliness." He added: We are certain that Syria has no wish to make the presence of the Syrian troops in Lebanon permanent."

Asked if he has reasons to believe that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon could be effected before the end of the year, he said that this issue in particular is "not complicated" and that the United States could help if it adopts a firm stand on this particular issue.

Concerning the future of the region if the current peace talks fail, al-Baz said that in such case all parties will suffer and the "region will enter into a dark tunnel of instability that would not be limited to the Palestinian people, but would extend to Israel itself." This, he added, will lead the "extremist and rejectionist trends" among Israelis, Palestinians, and Arabs to gain the upper hand, which could lead to "even greater instability" in the region. He noted that any "real setback" to the peace process will "force Israel to increase its armament by developing its nuclear capabilities and bolstering its local military production so that it would not have to rely on outside help." He noted that "in light of all this, a new war is not out of the question between the Arabs and Israel, whether because of miscalculation or misjudgment by one of the two parties" to make specific gains. He said that "Israel could push itself into the abyss by attempting to use the nuclear bombs it possesses, particularly if it is pushed into a state of despair or a state of aggressiveness by the arrogance of power."

In the fourth and final installment of the interview with al-Baz, appearing in the 28 March issue, the Egyptian official discusses the Libyan-Western crisis, relations with Sudan, and extremism in Egypt.

Asked about Egypt's mediation efforts to solve the crisis between Libya and the West, al-Baz explains that Egypt is trying to advise both sides not to escalate the dispute. He notes that the problem has a legal aspect, "which must be examined in a pure legal context" and a political aspect, where "some Western countries consider themselves in a state of antagonism with Libya because they believe it made serious mistakes in the past."

Contending that Libya has changed its policies regarding support for opposition movements and is now focussing on internal development, al-Baz says that "Libya must not be viewed as a permanent enemy of the West." He adds: "Libya, we believe, used to antagonize certain policies. The evidence is that its relations with Egypt were characterized by strain and tension. Now, however, Libya's relations with Egypt are good; they are relations of cooperation and good neighborliness, although Egypt changed nothing of its policies. I mean that we must always take into consideration the fact that states develop their thinking and the means to achieve their objectives."

Further arguing that Libya should not be taken to task for its past policies and actions, al-Baz says: "Libya must be given a chance to prove its good intentions and that it is taking a certain course. There are many indications that Libya has severed its links with the groups that practice violence, sabotage, or terrorism, and made big strides in this regard. The West needs to respond to this."

Asked about the growth of the fundamentalist movement in Egypt and whether the government will survive the current wave of violence, al-Baz maintains that the people and government of Egypt are able to stand up to "violent extremism" because the phenomenon is alien to the country. He says: "We, therefore, believe we will overcome this problem. This, however, does not mean we are taking it lightly; indeed, we are taking it very seriously, and considering it a threat to Egypt almost for the first time in its modern history." He adds: "We must take big strides to confront the phenomenon. During the process, we may expect some incidents here and there in the next months, but this does not mean there is a major threat to security, that the situation in Egypt is tense, or that the Egyptian street is suffering."

After noting the special, historical relations between the peoples of Egypt and Sudan, al-Baz expresses belief that any tension in these relations will only be a passing cloud. He, however, accuses the Sudanese government, "which is largely influenced by the National Islamic Front [NIF]," of fabricating problems with Egypt and supporting terrorist movements. He says Egypt has evidence to prove that "some farms run by the NIF in Sudan are being used, apart from agricultural activity, for training in sabotage, assassinations, and bombings, and are linked to terrorism. We also have evidence that the elements involved in this are either Sudanese members of the NIF or Iranians." Al-Baz adds that Arabs from Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and some other Arab countries receive training on the Sudanese farms. "This means," he says "that Sudan, for the first time in its history, is playing a very strange role—namely, threatening the security of the Arab countries and interfering in their affairs under the slogan of Islamic internationalism."

Because of Egypt's responsibility to protect its national security, al-Baz says, Sudan must be told that its policies are unacceptable. "Sudan must watch its policy in this respect. It must not play with fire because it will be the first to get burned, before the fire spreads into a larger circle."

Finally, discussing the growth of Islamic fundamentalism in the Arab world, al-Baz says that the phenomenon has reached a peak and will not grow further in the future unless the region sees developments that cause further instability and frustration, such as wars, starvations, or the collapse of the peace talks among the Arabs and Israel. "But in the absence of such developments—and I hope they will not occur—I believe that the phenomenon will begin to decline gradually, but this will take time."

Mubarak, Islamic Leader Discuss Recent Conflicts

AU3103154193 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1907 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Report by Hans Benedict, including "exclusive" interview with President Husni Mubarak and Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaibi, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Benedict] During the past eight weeks bloody clashes were caused by militant Islamic fundamentalists in Cairo, on the Nile delta, and in the towns of Asyut and Aswan. Those who are sentenced because of terrorist acts and rebellion, who are imprisoned, shot, or hanged will be followed by more fundamentalists. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is facing serious economic setbacks as a result of the political tensions. Numerous tourists have canceled their planned visits. In normal times, Egypt earns $3 billion dollars annually in tourism.

[Mubarak] These things were mainly imported from outside the country. Most of these people fought in the war in Afghanistan and received their ideological training there, particularly in Peshawar in Pakistan. They earned money there. When the conflict in Afghanistan came to an end, they went to Iran, and from there via Libya to Sudan, which is closely allied with Iran. We know these people. We know that they were involved in the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat in 1991.

[Benedict] However, the extreme poverty of some sections of the population who rely on government aid has not been imported. It is the result of mismanagement, corruption, and overpopulation that existed long before Mubarak took office. Bread accounts for 85 percent of their food. The price for noodles and bread is now subsidized again. Mubarak's predecessor Anwar al-Sadat nearly caused a civil war when he wanted to abolish the subsidies. Mutton is not easily available. Yet, everyone can afford organ meats and the animal heads.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which fights for the subjection of secular Arab regimes to the laws of the Islamic shariah, was founded in Cairo in 1929. The Brotherhood operates underground. President Mubarak has barred it from parliament. Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaibi is the leader of the Brotherhood. He predicts that fundamentalism will conquer Egypt once the Muslim Brotherhood establishes itself as a political force. This may not necessarily involve violence.

[Al-Hudaibi] We would win all over the country if free elections were allowed. We would certainly achieve a majority. In Egypt, 95 percent of the population are Muslims. They want real Islam. They do not want anything new, only their religion and the fulfillment of their demands, the fulfillment of their religion.

[Benedict] Are you saying that Mubarak is no democrat?

[Al-Hudaibi] No, he is not. We have never had democratic elections. We have never had a fair system. Our Brotherhood is not allowed to become active as a political party. Every party needs the approval of the government for entering parliament. I want to form an opposition party, but I am not allowed to.

[Benedict] It is known that the government is holding political prisoners. How many of them belong to the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Al-Hudaibi] It is true that Muslim leaders have been arrested. They are in different prisons—about 50 of them.

[Benedict] Will they be put on trial?

[Al-Hudaibi] Not at the moment.

[Benedict] What are the charges against them?

[Al-Hudaibi] That they are illegal. [passage omitted]

[Benedict] In the past few months, one got the impression that the government is becoming increasingly paralyzed and helpless. President Mubarak has ordered

tough measures, but, as the successes of the fundamentalists in Algeria and in Sudan show, violence cannot create peace but provokes more violence.

[Al-Hudaibi] When I see what my belief tells me and what the law tells me—which is the contrary—what shall I do? I used to be a judge. I know what I am saying. Whom must I obey? On the one hand there are God's orders and on the other the law that tells me to obey another religion. There is no connection between the two.

[Benedict] President Husni Mubarak denies that Egypt is on the path toward Islamic totalitarianism.

[Mubarak] There is a fundamental difference. Different countries cannot be compared with each other. What happened in Algeria was to be expected. I knew that before it happened. I told the former Algerian president, Chadli Bendjedid: Be careful. You want to allow a religious party. Don't do that. These religious parties will cause problems in our Islamic countries. They belong to the so-called Islamic Party and pretend that the rest of the population are not Muslims. One cannot compare the situation with Europe. There are big differences. They think in a completely different way from us. He did not listen to me. He said that the other parties are stronger than the Muslim Party. I warned him, and it really happened. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Claims Pyramids Blast, Threatens More

NC0104123993 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 1 (AFP)—The fundamentalist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] group claimed responsibility Thursday [1 April] for a blast at the Pyramids and other attacks and said time was running out for foreigners to leave the country.

The group said it had carried out recent attacks in Cairo and the southern city of Aswan, the latest of which was a blast at the Pyramids on Tuesday which wounded two workmen.

The militant group said in a statement that it "called once again on tourists and (foreign) investors to leave the country immediately" adding that "time is running out for warnings."

Its operations would go on "as long as the Egyptian regime's policy of physically eliminating Muslims continues."

Security forces killed 30 Muslim militants in March.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said its recent operations were aimed at avenging police operations in the southern cities of Aswan and Asyut.

Two policemen and 10 militants, including leading al-Jama'ah member Ahmad Zaki, were killed in clashes in Asyut two weeks ago.

A bomb killed a policeman in Cairo last Saturday while another was shot dead in the city's metro, and six people including a police chief were wounded in bomb attacks in Aswan on Sunday.

Interim head of the interior ministry's security department, General 'Ali Abu-al-Nasr, said the Pyramid blast was caused by a "short circuit" and not a bomb.

More than 130 people have died and the tourist industry has been badly damaged since Muslim fundamentalists launched a violent campaign last year aimed at destablising the government.

Muslim Brotherhood Disclaims Link With Terrorism

NC3103165093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1506 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—The banned Muslim Brotherhood issued a statement today strongly denouncing the immoral terrorist incidents that happen occasionally in Egypt, saying that it has no connection whatsoever with any of these violent acts.

The statement, issued in the wake of Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa's remarks on the issue to the Consultative Council yesterday, said that investigations carried out by various state agencies over the past 20 years have proved that the Muslim Brotherhood has no connection with any act of violence, any attack on others, or any conduct that could conceivably disrupt social or individual security in any way.

The statement added: The Muslim Brotherhood formerly declared that it rejects some people's claims about foreigners, particularly tourists, and announced its belief, based on religious interpretation, that any foreigner, tourist or otherwise, is secure and it is impermissible for any individual or group to encroach on his personal safety, his wealth, or peace of mind.

The statement recalled an earlier pronouncement by the Muslim Brotherhood's general guide that violence and terrorism contravene the law and the proper understanding of Islam, lead only to further tension, and undermine the nation's stability and security.

The statement reiterated the Brotherhood's declared position that the use of grenades and other explosives, aggression against police officers and troops, security personnel, and public figures, and the concurrent harm to members of the public who happen to be at the site of the attack are criminal acts and hideous forms of aggression that are proscribed by Islamic shariah and morality.

In his remarks to the Consultative Council yesterday, the interior minister urged religious societies and groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, to unequivocally announce their stand on terrorism. The interior minister said that the situation does not permit partial solutions, hesitant stands, or silence.

Mufti Urges Confronting Terrorism, Subversion

NC3103190493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Alexandria, 31 Mar (MENA)—Egypt's Mufti Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi has declared that aggression against public property means aggression against 60 million people, the population of Egypt.

Addressing a ceremony to honor model mothers in Alexandria Governorate today, the mufti said those who place bombs in public places and transport facilities and injure peaceful women, children, or men must be confronted with all possible force because by doing so we fight debauchery and aggression in service of our religion and country.

He added: We are not afraid of terrorism, nor do we fear death as long as death comes while we are performing our duty toward our country and defending our creed and religion.

Egypt's mufti noted that terrorist incidents currently occur in most countries of the world and that Egypt is the country where the least of these events occur. He added that the current terrorist acts in Egypt are far removed from mercy and religion.

Concluding, Tantawi said freedom of expression is guaranteed for everyone in Egypt and he welcomed polite and respectful dialogue and discussion. He emphasized at the same time that there is no coverup for subversion because anyone who covers up subversion is a traitor to his religion before being a traitor to his country.

Official: Terrorists Constitute 'Effective Force'

NC3103152093 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 29 Mar 93 pp 16-17

[Text] Although some security officials say that the terrorist groups will soon be eliminated, others have confessed that the security forces are up against an organized enemy that has struck at the heart of the country's economy by attacking various tourist targets.

Assistant Interior Minister Major General Baha'-al-Din Ibrahim told REUTER that this enemy—meaning the terrorist groups—is organized and that its members are ready to die. It is this that makes them an effective force.

Maj. Gen. Ibrahim estimates the members of violent groups at 10,000—mostly young men who attack the police, Christians, and tourists. He estimates that there are also tens of thousands of fundamentalists who seek to establish an Islamic state by peaceful methods.

He added: These groups' strength lies in their organization. They are divided into independent cells with most of the members ignorant of the leaders' names and other cells. Only cell leaders know each other and exchange data about methods of operation. Thus when one cell falls into police hands, it cannot be traced to the others. They are organized like a tree with many branches: The police can reach and cut off one branch, but many remain.

Concerning the possible involvement of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and his followers in the bombing of New York's World Trade Center, Maj. Gen. Ibrahim said: The security authorities believe that the masterminds of these groups are mainly found in Egypt but some are abroad. Our primary interest is to arrest the masterminds here and abroad. We have seized some of them but have not yet uncovered the complete administrative structure of the terrorist network. We have discovered many clues but there are missing links.

Maj. Gen. Ibrahim told REUTER that many members of the terrorist groups received their training while fighting alongside Afghan groups against Kabul's Soviet-backed government in the eighties. On their return, they trained others in Egypt. He said the leaders are headquartered in Pakistan and Afghanistan and from there they command the groups inside Egypt and supply them with money and moral support.

Aswan Police Shoot, Arrest al-Jihad Member

NC3103185193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Aswan, 31 Mar (MENA)—A leader of al-Jihad Organization's military wing was hit today in an exchange of fire with policemen who had come to arrest him as part of their intense campaign to arrest extremists who make explosive charges and throw them at police cars and tourist areas.

The wounded terrorist is named 'Imad 'Abdallah Sadiq. He is a 23-year-old student of the higher social service institute; he was born in Qina and lives in Hakrub, Aswan. He opened fire with a homemade pistol on the policemen who had ambushed him and one of them had to return fire, hitting him in the stomach. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

The police found on him the weapon used in the shootout and four 9-mm bullets. Aswan prosecution has initiated an investigation.

* 'Abd-al-Rahman's Family Reportedly in Sudan

93AF0465A London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Article by Husayn Kurum and Samiyah Nakhkhul: "'Abd-al-Rahman Family Flees to Sudan"]

[Text] Cairo—The issue of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the spiritual leader of Egypt's al-Jihad Organization, has entered a new phase with the announcement by his attorneys that they will boycott the court sessions in which 'Abd-al-Rahman is scheduled to be tried in absentia and which will begin on 16 April, stressing that the court before which Shaykh 'Umar is to

appear is the same court that acquitted him three years ago, thus refuting any legal argument for his retrial.

The attorneys' announcement of their boycott coincided with strong reports that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's youngest wife fled to Sudan one day after she had been denied permission to depart Cairo Airport to perform the minor pilgrimage rites.

Security sources have reported that an investigation is underway to find out how Fatin Muhammad and her four children were able to sneak into Sudan right before the eyes of investigators and of the border checkpoints.

It is to be noted that Cairo Airport turned back Fatin Muhammad and her children when they tried to board a flight heading for Saudi Arabia. She said she was going to Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage rites.

In 1990, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman left Egypt for Saudi Arabia. From there he proceeded to Sudan, where he acquired an entry visa to the United States.

Last week, U.S. immigration authorities ordered the 54-year-old shaykh to leave the country. However, he still has 10 more days to appeal the order, and court litigation procedures may take a long time.

It is to be noted that Egypt has not requested Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's extradition officially, but it may make such a request if he is convicted in the retrial.

Security sources have said that a number of Muslim radicals arrested by the Egyptian authorities last week have confessed to participating in an Iranian-Sudanese scheme to provoke riots and sedition in Egypt and neighboring Arab countries.

The confession, reported by AL-MASA', a Cairo evening newspaper, coincided with a statement by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif pointing out that an announcement will be issued in the near future on the presence of evidence of a connection between Iran and Sudan and the terrorist activities carried out by a radical group in Egypt.

AL-MASA' reported that the plot calls for hundreds of Arabs who served as volunteers in Afghanistan previously to sneak into Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco to try to provoke sedition and civil unrest in these countries. The paper estimates the number of apprehended radicals connected with the issue at 52 persons, adding that some of them have confessed to receiving training from Iranian Revolution Guard members in neighboring Sudan.

In a related development, it was learned from Cairo police sources yesterday, Monday, that Qatari authorities arrested on Sunday an Egyptian Islamist who had been sentenced in absentia to life at hard labor in 1989 for his participation in two attempts on the lives of two former ministers.

Majdi al-Safati was convicted for his participation in the attempts on the lives of two former interior ministers, namely Major General Hasan Abu-Basha and Major General al-Nabawi Isma'il, as well as journalist Muhammad Ahmad.

Samiyah Nakhkhul From Cairo

The attorneys of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, a radical Islamist preacher, decided yesterday, Monday, to boycott the shaykh's retrial in Egypt, saying that it is part of a campaign to wipe out radical Islamists.

Attorney 'Adil al-Aymuni has said: "We have decided to boycott the trial in light of the climate and conditions engulfing us. This is unfair. In any case, the decision will be made, regardless of whether we participate or not."

The government has accused 'Abd-al-Rahman, who went to live in the United States in 1991, of leading a radical group that has attacked the police, Christians, and tourists.

'Abd-al-Rahman has been linked to three individuals arrested in the United States since the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York.

Al-Aymuni said on Sunday, two days ago, that the military ruler has abrogated the acquittal issued in favor of 'Abd-al-Rahman and 49 alleged radicals in 1990 in wake of riots in al-Fayyum. He added that 'Abd-al-Rahman will be tried in absentia next month.

Yesterday, Monday, al-Aymuni said that the boycott of the trial "reflects our resentment" of the government decision and that he and four attorneys representing 'Abd-al-Rahman have agreed not to participate.

Al-Aymuni added: "This decision is part of a premeditated campaign aimed at Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman at a time when all Islamists in the country are being hit. This is war against us." He wondered: "On what basis do they want to have Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman tried by the same court that acquitted him three years ago?" Al-Aymuni said: "This is a scheme to retry Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and find him guilty." Al-Aymuni also said that 'Abd-al-Rahman was notified two months ago that the government had abrogated the 1990 decision and decided to retry him. But the shaykh told the government that he will not attend "because the law is not respected in Egypt."

The government has accused Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, who has been living in voluntary exile in New Jersey, in the United States, since 1991, of leading a radical Islamic group that has attacked the police, Christians, and tourists in a war to topple the government and to establish a most radical Islamic government in Egypt.

Three men arrested in the United States in the case connected with last month's explosion at the World Trade Center in New York have been linked to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, who was tried and acquitted of the charge of providing the legal opinion for assassination of the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, has denied any connection with the explosion.

Judiciary sources have said that if the court convicts Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Egyptian Government will be able to request his extradition from the United States.

A U.S. court has actually ruled that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's residence in the United States is illegal.

The decision to retry Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman coincides with an all-out offensive launched by the Egyptian Government against radicals—an offensive that has made March the bloodiest month in a year of escalating acts of political violence.

At least 42 persons have been killed, and 83 others have been wounded in raids on hideouts of suspected Islamic radicals in Cairo and Upper Egypt. In Aswan, southernmost Egypt, armed police raided a mosque crowded with radicals.

Security sources have said that the younger of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's wives in Egypt, named Fatin Ahmad Shu'ayb (31 years old), and four of the shaykh's children tried to board an Air Egypt flight destined for Jeddah, saying that they were going to go to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage rites.

A Ministry of Interior official said on Sunday, two days ago, that Egypt has no record of a person who is alleged to be a supporter of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman and whom the U.S. FBI says is one of the main suspects in the World Trade Center explosion case.

The FBI said that the man is Egyptian and that his name is Muhammad Abu-Halimah. Security sources have said that two other alleged leaders of the radicals were arrested on Sunday, two days ago: one in Qatar and the other at an oasis in Egypt's Western Desert.

In the same vein, it has been learned from a police source in Cairo that the Qatari authorities arrested on Sunday an Egyptian Islamist who had been sentenced to life at hard labor in 1989 for his participation in two attempts on the lives of two former ministers. Majdi al-Safati had been sentenced to prison for his participation in attempts on the lives of two former interior ministers, namely Maj. Gen. Hasan Abu-Basha and Maj Gen al-Nabawi Isma'il, as well as Egyptian journalist Makram Muhammad Ahmad. Al-Safati fled Egypt in 1987 with a fake passport and went to Qatar, where he has been living under a fake identity. Egyptian police believe that al-Safati is the leader of a banned radical organization called "Those Saved from the Fire."

The police source pointed out that Majdi al-Safati is the subject of a judicial investigation in Qatar and that Egypt will ask the Qatari authorities to extradite him when the investigation is completed. It should be noted that Egypt and Qatar have signed an extradition agreement.

In another related development, a police source said that Husayn 'Abbud Jaballah, assumed to be an official of the underground fundamentalist Jihad Organization, was arrested in Cairo on Sunday. He is accused of hurling a Molotov cocktail at a police station in Masarah, a village close to Asyut and 380 km south of Cairo, last week.

University Bans Academic's Works for 'Blasphemy'

NC3103213093 Paris AFP in English 2050 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 31 (AFP)—Cairo University has banned the works of a faculty member for alleged blasphemy against Islam, causing a rumble among Egyptian intellectuals who criticize the encroachment of fundamentalist ideas.

Amid a rise in violence between Muslim militants and authorities, intellectuals have slammed the spread of religious extremism in what they called a bastion of liberal thought, AL-AHRAM newspaper said Wednesday [31 March].

Sixty years after blind author Taha Husayn was expelled from the same campus for a book deemed blasphemous, the university's administration last week banned Nasir Hamid Abu-Zayd's works and barred his promotion to full professor.

The author of several titles on Islam, 50-year-old Abu-Zayd is an assistant professor of Arabic at the School of Languages and Literature.

An ad-hoc committee from the Faculty of Sciences preceded the administration's decision with a report charging that Abu-Zayd's works "degrade Islam." Twelve of its 13 members voted for the decision.

But his own faculty shot back with its own report saying his extensive research "justifies his promotion."

Abu-Zayd said he would sue over the university's decision. "I'm concerned about safeguarding my position at the university because I want to continue teaching my students," he said.

Writer Ghali Shukri, editorializing in AL-AHRAM, said the issue was "an alarm that must ring aloud in the ears of public opinion." He cautioned against terrorism cloaked in religion.

Another daily, AL-AKHBAR, said the ad-hoc committee had exceeded the limits of its scientific and educational role by resorting to "intellectual terrorism against thought and research."

Media Cooperation Talks Held With Mali

NC3103141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Media talks were held today at the Radio and Television Union Headquarters

between a Malian information delegation led by Minister of Information and Culture Boubakar Karamoko [title as received] and the Egyptian media delegation led by head of the Radio and Television Union Amin Basyuni. The meeting comes within the context of the official visit of the Malian minister of information and culture to Egypt at the invitation of Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif.

Basyuni said afterward that their talks dealt with developing and enhancing media cooperation in the areas of radio, television, and news agencies, encouraging cooperation between press institutions in both countries, and utilizing the Egyptian training institutes in training media cadres in Mali.

The Malian minister praised Egyptian media's progress and expressed his gratitude and thanks for the Egyptian media's continued support for the media in Mali.

He also expressed his wish to receive and relay the Egyptian Space Channel broadcast in Mali because it contains distinguished programs, including religions programs and Islamic serials, which viewers in Mali are anxious to see.

Two Cooperation Accords Signed

NC3103190793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] A final session of media talks between Egypt and Mali was held this afternoon. Two media cooperation accords were signed; the first deals with radio, television, press, and news agencies, and the second with reception and relay of Egyptian Space Channel broadcasts to fraternal Mali.

The accords were signed by the Malian communications minister and the head of the Radio and Television Union Amin Basyuni on behalf of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Official Denies 20-Percent Cut in German Aid

NC3103180293 Cairo MENA in English 1745 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 31 (MENA)—An official source at the Ministry of International Cooperation has denied reports that Germany is planning to cut short Egypt's share of German financial aid by 20 percent, while curtailing its share of technical assistance by 16 percent within the context of policies on rationalizing German expenditure.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the ministry official said Egypt ranked third after Turkey and India on the list of devoloping states benefiting from German aid.

Germany's annual aid to Egypt includes 200 million DM [German marks] in soft loans to be repaid over 40 years with a ten-year grace period and a 00.75 percent interest rate.

The soft loans are used to finance infra-structure projects and import German commodities while the 25-million DM technical assistance goes towards training programmes.

Libya

Communique Released at End of al-Bashir Visit

LD3103233093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] A press communique was released in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan today at the end of the visit by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sister Sudan to the Great Jamahiriyah. Here follows the text of the communique:

In order to bolster the ties of brotherhood between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Sudan, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution and prime minister in the Republic of Sudan, paid a fraternal working visit to the Great Jamahiriyah from 27 to 31 March 1993 at the head of an important delegation.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir and the delegation accompanying him received a fraternal welcome from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and the masses of the Basic People's Congresses, the communes, which reaffirmed the depth of the relations and the ties of brotherhood between the two sisterly countries and their determination to realize total Arab unity

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir stressed that the Sudanese Arab people stood by their brothers the Libyan Arab people and that they rejected all forms of hegemony and colonialism and all attempts of oppression and humiliation. He also recalled the resolutions passed by the Basic People's Congresses in Sudan calling for a rejection of the iniquitious coercive measures taken against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and the ensuing human and economic damage that killed thousands of people among the sons of the Great Jamahiriyah and those residing on its soil. These measures also prevented the Muslims from performing their religious rites of hajj and minor pilgrimage ['umrah] in the holy places in Mecca, which should not have been entered into the international political battlefield but should have remained neutral and open to the Muslims regardless of the changing local and international political situations.

During this visit, several working meetings were held between the brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution and his brother Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution. These meetings were attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Col. Abu Bakr

Yunis, a number of secretaries of General People's Committees, and the delegation accompanying Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. These meetings dealt with numerous issues of mutual interest and the two sides shared the same views on the Arab and international issues they discussed. Sudan also reiterated its rejection of the unjust coercive measures and the subsequent measures, and it called on the international community to adhere to one standard and not to apply a double- standard when dealing with international issues.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir gave his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, a detailed explanation of the political, economic, and social achievements realized by the National Salvation Revolution, foremost the building of a political system based on the people's authority exercised through the Basic People's Congresses and the People's Committees, and also the executive measures taken by the federal authority and the efforts of the National Salvation Revolution to solve the problem of the south peacefully, in addition to the agricultural and development achievements. The two sides also expressed their rejection of the savage onslaught launched against Sudan by some world powers, which is aimed at its sovereignty, its Arab, Muslim, and African identity, and its right to achieve progress on its land.

During the talks the two sides also reviewed the development of the fraternal relations between the two countries in all fields and ways to bolster them. In this respect, the two sides agreed to continue the process of integration between the two sister countries and strengthen this process in order to prepare the unionist ground between them and guarantee self-sufficiency by drawing up a joint development strategy and extending the execution of agricultural and industrial projects and the development of human resources. The two sides also agreed on a program that would ensure the strengthening of the institutions of integration between the two countries and its and increase its effectiveness. They also stressed their commitment to implement the agreements signed between them, foremost the agreement on freedom of movement, residence, employment, and ownership, which entitles citizens from the two countries to the rights of full citizenship in both countries and lays down the executive measures for this citizenship.

At the Arab level, the two sides stressed the need to work to strengthen Arab relations and continue the efforts to crystallize joint unionist action in order to strengthen the status of the Arab nation and its capacity to confront the challenges and dangers facing it and the enemies lying in wait for it. This would guarantee the sovereignty of the Arab nation and preserve its existence within the framework of the pan-Arab responsibility for a comprehensive pan-Arab security. In this respect, the two sides emphasized the extreme importance to work towards the realization of the project of Arab union and the development of the Arab League Charter from its basis.

The two sides also stressed the importance of joint action to consolidate relations between the Arabs and the African and Islamic states since these constitute a natural extension of the Arab nation and since they share ties of brotherhood, common interests, and the same destiny.

Western Sahara

Polisario Leader on UN Role, Referendum

PM0103095093 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 30 Mar 93 p18

[Interview with Mohamed Abdelaziz, President of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, by Fabio Scuto in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpts] Rome—"We have complete faith in UN action in the Western Sahara, despite delays in organizing the referendum on self-determination for the Sahrawi people. In my next meeting with Butrus-Ghali, whom I will be seeing next week in Tindouf, I will confirm to the secretary general our wholehearted support for the UN mission." The assessment made by Mohamed Abdelaziz, Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] leader and Saharan Democratic Arab Republic president, who was invited to Rome by the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Commission, is a positive one, and he does not hide the fact that the next three months will be crucial in finding a solution to the crisis in Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

[Scuto] Mr. President, what is the situation in the Western Sahara today?

[Abdelaziz] With the new resolution approved by the Security Council in February, number 809, the opportunity for establishing peace has been given new energy. The Council has given the secretary general three months to meet the sides and seek negotiations. We are ready to work with Butrus-Ghali for a fair and just referendum.

[Scuto] And what is your assessment of the work done so far by the United Nations?

[Abdelaziz] There has been war for 17 years, but always with a view to peace. It is very positive that the United Nations did not give in to Morocco's request to include in the lists of those with the right to vote, 120,000 people who would have altered the referendum's outcome. In the UN view, those with the right to vote are the Sahrawis registered in 1974 by the Spanish. Well, according to that census there were 74,920 people, of whom 70,204 are alive today, and they are the only ones with the right to vote.

[Scuto] In recent months there have been numerous defections from your movement. What is your assessment of that?

[Abdelaziz] The defections exist a lot more in the publicity put about at the behest of the Rabat government than in reality. It is a phenomenon which occurs in many liberation movements; each person is free to choose his own path but that does not alter the terms of the problem in the slightest: A people's right to self-determination must be guaranteed. Without this right there will be no solution to the crisis. Of course, the defections are a reality from which we cannot hide. The Polisario is a very poor movement, while the means at Morocco's disposal are substantial.

[Scuto] What will the Sahrawi state be like?

[Abdelaziz] In 1991, at the Front's Eighth Congress, we put together a text for the Constitution designed to be the "framework" for our democracy. My country, after independence, will be a pluralist country open to the free market, and in which all basic liberties will be guaranteed.

[Scuto] History shows that African national liberation movements fail once independence has been achieved, engulfing their countries' fate as they fall. The example of Algeria is there for all to see....

[Abdelaziz] Times have changed; perhaps we too, at the beginning, fell victim to some sort of infatuation. But over the years we have learnt from the experiences of other nationalist movements. It is essential that democracy be allowed to grow immediately after independence: That is the only system to guarantee sure economic development.

Kuwait

One Killed as Fishing Boats Flee Iranian Patrol

LD3103205193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2022 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Mar (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said this evening that one person was killed and two others were injured when an Iranian patrol unit pursued four fishing boats owned by Kuwaiti nationals. In its statement, the Ministry asserted that the pursuit took place when the Kuwaiti boats went beyond Kuwaiti waters and infiltrated Iranian waters.

The statement went on to say that the accident resulted in the death of one person and the wounding of two others as a result of the collision of the Kuwaiti fishing boats among themselves during the pursuit operation as they were returning to Kuwaiti waters. The statement did not give the identity nor the number of the persons involved.

The statement indicated that Kuwaiti patrol units transported the injured to hospital for treatment, and confiscated the four boats.

In its statement, the Interior Ministry appealed to sea users—amateurs and fishermen—to be cautious and vigilant, and not to go near the northwestern borders or the demilitarized zone.

Communique Issued on Lebanese President's Visit

NC3103173693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Mar 93

["Text" of communique released by the Lebanese Presidential Office on President Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to Kuwait]

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi concluded his visit to his brother His Highness Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah after a series of talks with his highness and senior Kuwaiti officials. President al-Hirawi congratulated the Kuwaiti officials on the liberation of Kuwait. He reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the requirements of reconstruction and development projects. The atmosphere of the talks was positive. President al- Hirawi expressed his wishes for the release of all Kuwaiti POW's as quickly as possible.

United Arab Emirates

Lebanese President Arrives in Abu Dhabi From Kuwait

JN3103151393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 Mar (WAKH)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this evening on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in the course of a regional tour.

On hand to welcome him were His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan and al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi, speaker of the Federal National Council.

Al-Hirawi is scheduled to hold talks with top UAE officials on bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual concern.

First Round of Talks Held

NC0104063993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The first round of talks between the Lebanese delegation and United Arab Emirates [UAE] officials was held in Abu Dhabi last night. On the Lebanese side, the talks were attended by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, Information Minister Michel Samahah, and Lebanese Ambassador to UAE Amin 'Asi. On the UAE side, the talks were attended by Heir Apparent Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan; and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan.

The talks were followed by a private meeting between President al-Hirawi, the UAE heir apparent, and the UAE deputy prime minister.

The heir apparent held a dinner in honor of President al-Hirawi and his accompanying delegation. The dinner was attended by high- ranking UAE officials and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps.

Our correspondent says UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan did not attend the talks for health reasons.

Following his meeting with Shaykhs Khalifah and Sultan, President al-Hirawi said: My visit to the UAE is one of friendship. I have cordial relations with his excellency the president. There is mutual respect and understanding between us. He added: The UAE president delegated the heir apparent to consult with us in view of his ill health condition and his presence in the hospital.

Al-Hirawi added: In my view, the results of the talks are promising and very good. He noted that the UAE has never failed to support the Lebanese state on the political and economic levels, let alone in these days when Lebanon is in dire need of aid from all Arab states, especially the UAE.

AFP on Purpose of Trip

NC0104093693 Paris AFP in English 0837 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 1 (AFP)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi is touring wealthy Gulf Arab states to revive plans for a two-billion-dollar fund to rebuild his war-shattered country.

Lebanese Information Minister Michael Samahah said the president had discussed the fund and urgent aid for reconstruction in Lebanon with the leaders of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and would hold similar talks in Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

"We are trying to activate the aid fund, which was promised by Gulf and other countries after the end of the civil war," he told AFP.

"The president discussed the fund and other Gulf aid and investment for Lebanon and you can say he is fully satisfied with the talks."

He said al-Hirawi would return to Beirut on Thursday before heading for Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

Gulf states were among the countries that promised to contribute to the international fund for reconstruction in Lebanon after an Arab-brokered peace accord in the Saudi town of al-Ta'if ended the 16-year-old civil war in 1990.

But the project was held up by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the ensuing war, which has cost Gulf states more than 50 billion dollars.

Lebanon has estimated its civil strife cost between six billion and 12 billion dollars but said it needed 4.4 billion dollars to begin reconstruction with a five-year plan mapped out last year.

Butrus Labaki, in charge of rebuilding, told reporters in Abu Dhabi recently that Lebanon had secured around one billion dollars for the plan from France, Italy, Gulf states, the World Bank, and other donors. He said they would negotiate for more loans and encourage the Lebanese living in the Gulf and other countries to participate in reconstruction.

More than two million Lebanese live in the Gulf and other states and their assets are estimated at between 15 billion and 40 billion dollars.

Sources close to the Lebanese delegation said al-Hirawi was also seeking help to rebuild the army and spread authority to all territories.

In an interview with the official UAE news agency WAM, al-Hirawi urged Gulf citizens and businessmen to visit Lebanon, which was one of the biggest attractions for tourists from the oil-rich region before the war.

He said property owned by people from the UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia was still intact and they could go to Lebanon to recover it.

"The peace process in Lebanon has been effectively realised," he said. "Those who had financed the civil war should now finance peace."

Meets With President

JN0104101693 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A session of official talks was held at al-Mushrif Palace this morning between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the sisterly Republic of Lebanon. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, was present.

Following the session, an official source said the talks focused on the situation in Lebanon and current Arab and international affairs, in addition to bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest to the two peoples and the ways of developing relations in all areas. The talks were permeated by a cordial atmosphere characterized by understanding and a spirit of fraternity.

Ba'th Party Calls UN Decision on Sanctions 'Unfair'

NC3103131793 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, March 31 (AFP)—Iraq on Wednesday described as "unfair" the UN Security Council's decision to continue sanctions. "The United Nations' decision to renew the embargo against Iraq is unfair and reveals the (West's) underhanded intentions regarding our fighting people," said AL-THAWRAH, the ruling Ba'th party newspaper.

It was the first official Iraqi reaction to Monday's Security Council vote to maintain sanctions against Baghdad for its failure to abide by UN resolutions.

The paper said the Security Council "was primarily interested in ... exterminating the Iraqi people," by maintaining the sanctions slapped on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. "The imperialist West will fail to attain its goals and its aggression against Iraq will meet with failure ... as the Iraqis are able to cope with the embargo and with (economic) difficulties stemming from it," it said.

A senior UN official in charge of the world body's operations in Iraq said Tuesday that Bagdad was prepared to cooperate with the United Nations over humanitarian relief missions to Iraq.

A six-month accord governing humanitarian relief supplies to Iraq, agreed last October, runs out on Wednesday.

Extension Called 'New Test'

JN0104095893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH condemns the Security Council's decision to extend for two more months the sanctions imposed on Iraq. The paper describes the decision as a new test, in which the forces of aggression are testing their military capabilities against Iraq in a clash of wills.

The paper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the extension of the sanctions for another two months by the council members indicates that they are wagering on the time factor, since they believe that this factor will frustrate Iraqis and drive them to despair.

The paper affirms that the U.S. Administration and its allies are doing all this to make Iraqis capitulate to their schemes and surrender to their evil intentions.

AL-THAWRAH draws the attention of the hostile quarters to the achievements accomplished under the embargo since August 1990, underscoring the fact that Iraqis have neither succumbed nor been crushed under the heavy weight of the embargo and starvation. Under these circumstances, the paper says, Iraqis have endeavored to achieve self-sufficiency in food supplies by unleashing all their potentials and tackling shortcomings in the production processes, not to mention their exceptional reconstruction endeavor to rebuild what the war destroyed.

The paper notes the network of new man-made rivers dug by Iraqis between Baghdad and al-Basrah to expand the area of cultivable land in Iraq, saying: The objectives meant to be achieved by the al-Qadisiyah River, the inauguration of which coincided with the recent Security Council decision to extend the sanctions, are as important as the results achieved by the Saddam River and the Mother of Battles River, which reclaimed thousands of donums of agricultural land, promoted the irrigation system, regulated drainage ditches, and produced a boom in production.

Opposition Reports Evidence of Trade With Iran

NC0104095193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi Unified National Congress, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] There are reports of cooperation between Iraq and Iran, despite the clear differences between the two regimes and a previous eight-year war between the two countries. What does Saddam want? Could you shed some light on the significance of the cooperation between Iran and Iraq at this point?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] What we know from news agency reports is that the Iranian foreign minister was the first to announce that Iran is ready for and looking forward to improved ties with Iraq. Iraqi officials were initially skeptical about the sincerity of the Iranian position.

Concerning the trade issue, when we went to Kurdistan we saw many trucks carrying goods from Iran to Iraq. These trucks, we were told, carry Iraqi merchandise back to Iran. This is what we heard and we saw evidence of it on our trip to Kurdistan.

I believe that Iran does not see this kind of trade as harmful to its political interests. For Iran, it is purely an economic matter. Iraq, however, is eager to show the world that Iran, its long-time adversary, is willing to have peace with it at some, possibly near, point in the future.

[Al-Jundi] It is said that the ends justify the means. It is clear that Saddam Husayn has this in mind as he deals with Iran, despite the serious differences between the two regimes. Does Saddam see this policy as a tactic or a strategy?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] I think that Saddam is adopting this policy as a tactic rather than a strategy. Saddam is obsessed with his own political longevity. He would deal with anyone who might help him prolong his hold on power. There is no doubt that the economic blockade imposed by the major powers on Iraq does not harm the Iraqi regime as much as it harms the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Kurds Accused of Killing 1,500 Soldiers in North

JN0104081593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—A mass grave has recently been discovered near Irbil in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan. It contains the bodies of 1,500 Iraqi soldiers killed by armed Kurdish opposition elements and the militias affiliated with them. The soldiers were captured by these elements in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan during and after the chapter of treason and treachery. These elements tried to conceal this crime by claiming that they were Iraqi soldiers executed by the Iraqi regime at an Iraqi Army camp.

Jalal Talabani's radio station on 28 March claimed that the soldiers were executed for refusing to fight against Iran or the Kurds. London radio and both AFP and MENA repeated these claims, citing Talabani's radio station.

Late Mar Series of Explosions Reported in North

NC3103180893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] With the help of its agents in Kurdistan, the criminal regime continues its bombing operations in an attempt to terrorize the citizens. According to a news report from 'Aqrah, a bomb exploded in an agricultural and irrigation department in Berdarash at midnight on 22 March, causing no damage. On the same day a bomb exploded under a vehicle near the village of Muliyah on the 'Aqrah-Mosul highway. A time-bomb exploded in Chamchamal on 28 March, causing no damage.

Three explosions occurred in the Abu Farnas military airport in Mosul on 30 March. The newspaper KURDISTAN NEWS reported today that several explosions were heard in al-Ghazzani camp on the same day. No details about the losses caused by these explosions are known yet.

Leftover Mine Kills 2, Injures 3 in South

JN3103161493 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—Two people were killed and three others seriously injured as a result of explosion of a live mine dropped by the U.S.-led coalition warplanes on the residential districts in al-Muthanna Province in southern Iraq.

Director of the Civil Defence in the province said that three teams were formed to search for the unexploded mines and bombs with the aim of defusing them.

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Party Iraq Command Meeting

JN0104103193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1017 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has presided over a meeting of the Iraq Command.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi.

Finance Minister Confers With Turkish Official

JN0104113893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn today met with Turkish Charge D'affaires in Baghdad Sadi Calislar.

During the meeting, they discussed the means of effecting bilateral economic and financial cooperation in the interest of the two peoples.

French Journal Reports Israeli-Syrian Talks in Paris

TA3103145693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpt] The French journal L'AFRIQUE ET L'ASIE MODERNES reports in today's issue that senior representatives of Israel and Syria met recently in Paris, in the apartment of the daughter of Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa al-Talas. According to the report, the officials discussed an agreement between Israel and Syria which would include a pullout from the Golan Heights in exchange for a bilateral treaty along the lines of the Camp David accords. The journal notes that the Syrians demanded that the agreement not be publicized before some kind of arrangement on the Palestinian problem is reached. However, Israel demanded to publicize any agreement to be signed. [passage omitted]

Gur Comments on 'Arafat Remarks on Escalation

TA0104074893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Excerpt] [Lidar] Good morning to you, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur.

[Gur] Good morning.

[Lidar] Mr. Gur, I would like to hear your reaction to the comments made by Yasir 'Arafat that the intifadah is currently in its sixth stage and that we are on the eve of the seventh stage. Do you have any idea what he is talking about?

[Gur] I am not sure he knows himself. I think he is trying to take advantage of the partial success of recent days. He is threatening to exacerbate the intifadah in order to score achievements in the peace talks, although I do not know exactly what these achievements are. We must give 'Arafat the credit of always taking advantage of successful terror waves and of turning them into a personal political achievement. I personally prefer to deal seriously with events here in Israel rather than with 'Arafat's statements. [passage omitted]

Arab MK To Meet With 'Arafat, Propose Cease-Fire

TA0104060093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah from the Arab Democratic Party is leaving for Tunis, where he will meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Darawshah will suggest to the PLO leader a six-month cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians, Palestinian participation in renewed peace talks, and confidence-building measures from Israel, such as the return of the deportees and an improvement in the conditions in the territories.

MK's Say Rabin Incapable of Fighting Terrorism

TA3103140693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction will hold an emergency session tomorrow to discuss the deterioration in security. It claims that in his television appearance last night, Prime Minister Rabin in fact conceded his ineptitude in fighting terrorism, and that his remarks expressed helplessness.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 31 March adds that "the Likud faction also said that the remarks Yasir 'Arafat made today, according to which the intifadah has taken on a new form, are the PLO's response to the series of gestures Israel's Government made to the Palestinians."]

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that many of the Labor Knesset faction members are demanding that a political discussion be held with the prime minister. Such a discussion was scheduled for this week, but the prime minister postponed it until after the high holidays. Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan, Labor faction chairman, said today that the public does not accept the argument that the political process alone can improve the domestic security.

MK Sha'ul Yahalom, the National Religious Party's [NRP] political secretary, leveled harsh criticism at the prime minister who, according to him, avoids meeting the residents of the Qatif Bloc. MK Yahalom said that instead of reciting slogans on television, as he put it, the man in charge of Israel's security had better go out to the street to feel the public pulse.

'Dovish' Ministers Endorse New Open-Fire Orders

TA3103184493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Israel has informed the United States and several European countries of the new measures being adopted in the territories to combat the upsurge in violence. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says a paragraph in the Israeli letter is devoted to an explanation on the new open-fire orders. [passage omitted]

Even the dovish members of the government endorsed the decision to allow soldiers to shoot armed, wanted terrorists on sight, without firing warning shots. Education Minister Shulamit Aloni told reporter Jack Katzenell: It is a government decision, I share the responsibility for it, and I will not discuss it further.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid the change was unavoidable because of the wave of terrorism.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir also endorsed the decision.

[Begin Namir recording] Well, I don't know the details, but the situation is unbearable and it can't work like that; that they will be able to murder, and to assassinate, and to do whatever they wish, and we will behave according to extreme human rights. We are in war, and when you are in war you behave like in war. [end recording]

General Says Closure Will Curb, Not Stop Terror

TA3103205693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The head of Army Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, says the activities of the Army and other security forces in the Gaza Strip are likely to cut down terrorist activity and stabbing attacks against Israelis, but will not stop them completely. The closure of the Strip prevents friction between Palestinians and the Israeli population at large, says Vilna'i, but also increases frustration among the Palestinians which could spur individuals into terror acts. More in this report from Alan Ben-'Ami:

Talking to military reporters in Gaza, the head of Southern Command offered a sober, if realistic, appraisal of the country's current confrontation with terror. March has been an extremely hard month, with 15 Israelis all over the country killed by gun, knife, and ax, but that does not mean that April will be any easier, said Gen. Vilna'i. Israel is engaged in a complicated struggle, and terrorist successes breed further terrorist actions. They must be fought with a variety of activities and unconventional operations, said the general, as well as the ability of everyone to stand firm and display stamina. That's no less important, he said. The terrorists are not seeking to kill every Jew in the country, but to chip away unceasingly our morale, and the public's behavior and responses are an important factor.

The public at large must also act with greater caution and forethought, said the general. Many of the terrorist incidents would not have happened as they did if people had behaved differently, realized exactly where they were, and what situation they were facing and did not adopt the attitude that it can't happen to me.

As for the Army and the other security forces, Gen. Vilna'i says that the activities they are undertaking are likely to cut down terrorist activity and stabbing attacks, but won't be able to check them completely. The stabbing attacks are mainly the work of individuals acting on their own and with little forethought or planning.

As for the terrorist organizations, the most dangerous continues to be Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and its 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam wing. While Fatah accounts for 60 percent of terrorist activity from the Gaza Strip and Hamas for 25 percent, it is the Hamas terrorists who are the most deadly. Of the 100 or so men currently on the wanted list in the Gaza Strip, the seven most dangerous belong to Hamas.

[Citing senior military sources, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 31 March adds that "none of the stabbers in the recent incidents had been wanted by the defense authorities before they perpetrated the attacks."]

Press Views, Comments on Security Situation

TA3103162693

[Editorial Report] In the aftermath of the recent surge in terrorist activity, especially the murder of the two Israeli policemen near Hadera on 30 March, all Israeli papers in their 31 March 1993 editions comment extensively on the deteriorating security situation, calling on the government to implement what they regard as vital measures to alleviate the situation.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a page B1 editorial entitled "This is the Emergency Government," describes the emergency measures decided upon by the inner cabinet during its 30 March session. The editorial emphasizes the heavy financial damages which will accrue to Israeli businesses as a result of the shortage in working hands, but notes that "if we want to feel secure from the threats of stabbers we will have to pay this price." At the same time the editorial notes that "neither closures—no matter how prolonged—nor any other measures which the inner cabinet may have adopted yesterday, can eradicate the danger of terrorism." HA'ARETZ stresses that only negotiations with the Arab states and the Palestinians over the principle of dividing up Greater Israel can solve the problem. It adds: "Just as Palestinian terrorism is unacceptable to the Jews, so is Israeli occupation unacceptable to the Palestinians. The government must fight terrorism, but at the same time it must exert utmost efforts to advance the peace process." HA'ARETZ is firmly opposed to the calls for establishing a national unity government, stating that "only the present government can cope with the present emergency situation."

In a page B1 commentary on the same newspaper entitled "Not Even a Clue," Dani Rubinstein returns to the attempted assassination of Dr. Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi in Rafah two weeks ago. Rubinstein notes that so far the security forces have been unable to locate the assailants, and that, in fact, there is no clue as to who perpetrated the attack. Citing this case as an example, Rubinstein comments: "the great difficulty faced by the Israeli defense establishment in the present wave of terrorism is that the identity of the gunmen and knife-wielders is not always clear as far as their political and organizational affiliation is concerned. In the past, when the PLO directed the 'armed struggle' against Israel, every terror attack had an address. There was always a Palestinian faction with a certain ideological or political orientation which took upon itself the responsibility, boasted about

it, and gave out all the details. In those circumstances of organized activity, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Shin Bet always had the necessary clues to pursue the investigation." Nowadays, Rubinstein notes, "the situation has changed. A large proportion of the knife-wielders as well as those using firearms are not affiliated with any group or organization," a thing which greatly encumbers the investigations.

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew in a page 2 editorial entitled "War Against Terrorism," sharply criticizes the government's handling of the security situation and calls for the implementation of tough measures to handle the situation. The editorial notes that in light of the new circumstances there is no other answer to the rampant terrorist wave than "a policy of an 'iron fist' vis-a-vis the murderers." HATZOFE further notes there is no point in pursuing the peace talks in these circumstances, saying that the government is utterly wrong in its insistence on continuing the talks: "The peace arrangements will be introduced when the Palestinians realize that peace has a price tag. As long as they refuse to implement steps to halt the bloodshed, they must realize they stand to lose more than anyone else from the cessation of the peace talks." The editorial notes we have reached "the moment of truth," and "as long as terror continues to run rampant our sole objective should be to strike at the terrorists without mercy. Only after overcoming terrorism will we be able to hold negotiations over future arrangements, and this too while emphasizing that the Israeli Government has no intentions of dividing up Greater Israel again."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on page 2 carries an editorial entitled "Without Illusions," which welcomes the decisions adopted by the inner cabinet, adding that they "point to a dramatic change in the government's security policy." The editorial adds, however, that we must remain sober to the fact that despite the new measures "the despicable acts of terrorism will not end overnight." The editorial notes there was no alternative to the closure decision in the territories in order to reduce the friction between the two populations, and in order to enable the IDF to prepare for launching the campaign against the hard-core terrorists.

At the same time a note of caution is sounded: "We must recognize the fact that there is no government or army in the world which can completely eradicate by such measures the uprising and the terror acts perpetrated by a nation which regards us as a hostile occupying force." Only by completely demolishing their cities with tanks will we be able to accomplish this, "and no Israeli Government has ever or will ever do such a thing." In view of this situation we must not hearken to the demagogues who incite the public against the government and who pretend to have an antidote to the situation. YEDI'OT notes that these demagogues are only strengthening the position of our enemies "who want to see us lose our wits and sink into national hysteria. The terrorists and stabbers want us to despair of peace and withdraw from the peace process." The editorial ends by asserting: "We must not do them this favor. We must not play into their hands. Even in the present difficult situation we must remain calm and collected."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on page 2 carries a commentary by Nahum Barne'a entitled "Terrorism and Aspirin," which sharply criticizes the Israeli leadership's performance in the face of the recent attacks. Barne'a states that the recent attacks were not perpetrated by several lone murderers: "We are dealing here with a culture of murder, which at present enjoys the enthusiastic support and admiration of most of the Palestinian population." He lashes out at Israel's leadership: "This is definitely not the greatest hour of the Israeli leadership, both in government and in opposition." Barne'a points out that Rabin has failed to rise to the occasion, and "instead of giving his electorate the feeling that their blood has not been spilled in vain and that the leadership knows what it wants, he is equipping it with wooden clubs." Barne'a compares Rabin's faded television speech to the fiery and exciting speeches of former premiers Golda Meir and Menahem Begin who knew how to inspire the Israeli public. He charges that "the government's reaction to the present crisis is no more than a dose of aspirin. It imposed a closure in which nobody believes. The government behaves as though a peace process was really going on in Washington and as though there is a Palestinian partner who intends to sign an agreement and who can implement such an agreement." Barne'a emphasizes that "if the lesson we must learn is separation, then this separation must be real and total." Rabin, however, finds it difficult to implement this lesson, although he recognizes it is vital.

Turning to the opposition, Barne'a notes that "the right wing wants to undermine the government, and this is legitimate." He sharply criticizes, however, the cynical use the right is making of the recent murderous attacks to advance this aim. Referring to Binyamin Netanyahu, Barne'a states that "he is currently marketing easy, shallow, and demagogic solutions to the situation such as the death penalty." Barne'a adds that Netanyahu knows very well that the death penalty does not deter the Arabs and that it will only be counterproductive, because it will turn the terrorists into martyrs.

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on page 3 carries an Alex Fishman commentary entitled "Giving the Shin Bet Clout." Fishman maintains that "yesterday's double murder is not the end of the story. The quantity and quality of terror attacks will only increase." Fishman notes that "the government's closure decision will not halt the terror spiral." He contends that a closure is a worn out measure: "If we want to gain back our deterrence power quickly, this will require painful steps." An effective closure calls for the introduction of massive Army and police forces which will "reconquer" the hostile areas in the territories according to a predetermined timetable and on the basis of accurate intelligence information to be provided by the Shin Bet. Fishman calls on Rabin to "consider the possibility of giving back the Shin Bet some of the authorities it had prior to the

Egged bus no. 300 affair [in which the Shin Bet was implicated in a cover up while investigating murder of an Arab terrorist after he surrendered himself]. Instead of handing out wooden clubs to students it is preferable to use the Shin Bet. But since the Egged bus affair exploded, the Shin Bet has been emasculated." Fishman ends with a sharp warning: "If these measures are not implemented, the government will have to deal not with the Arabs, but rather with Jews who will take the law into their own hands."

IDF 'Significantly' Bolsters Troops in Territories

TA3103194793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] This evening, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] significantly beefed up its forces in the territories. Several standing paratrooper units were brought in, the special forces were seriously reinforced, and the overt and covert activity has intensified. Military sources reported that this evening, the irregular military activity in the territories was augmented. Our correspondent Amir Hay reports from the territories:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] Numerous IDF troops are traveling at this hour to Judaea and Samaria. It is worth mentioning, however, that in the hectic discussions before the troops were sent in, there were sharp differences among senior IDF officers. It is not enough to send in troops, some officers said. The question is how to utilize the forces in the most efficient way to reduce the extent of terror. [end recording]

Authorities Raid Camp Within Jerusalem City Limits

TA3103195693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] A closure was clamped today on the Shu'fat refugee camp, within the Jerusalem city limits. The closure was imposed for 10 hours due to riots in the camp. A police force combed the camp in search of suspected rioters and residents of the territories staying there illegally. The force entered the camp with Income Tax Authority and Israel Broadcasting Authority collectors. Our police affairs correspondent reports that six were detained for rioting, 10 for illegal stay, and five others who owed taxes. The police examined 60 vehicles, half of which failed inspection. After the police force left the camp, the residents threw rocks and set tires on fire. A girl was wounded in the hand by a rubber bullet when this demonstration was being dispersed.

One of 'Most Dangerous' Gaza 'Terrorists' Escapes

TA0104055193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] One of the most dangerous terrorists in the Gaza Strip, Yasir Abu-Samadanah, has reportedly fled to Egypt. Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent says that several other wanted men fled with him. She adds that about 100 armed and wanted terrorists and suspects are still at large in the Gaza Strip, most of them Fatah members. Military sources say that statements by Israelis calling for a total separation of the Gaza Strip from Israel only lead to more radical actions by Palestinians.

Thai Worker Stabbed; 3 Gazans Injured by IDF Fire

TA3103205293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] A Thai worker was stabbed this evening in the Jordan Rift Valley Moshav of Hamra. He was injured in the head and back and taken to hospital. Another Thai worker managed to escape the stabbers. Two knives were found later at the site of the incident, and the assailant managed to flee. This was reported by our correspondents Moshe Nussbaum and Karmela Menashe.

An Arab resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza was severely injured and two others were lightly wounded when IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fired at stone throwers. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that this evening dozens of Jabalyah residents threw rocks at an IDF outpost in the camp. The soldiers dispersed the rioters with gunfire, injuring the three.

In the Bethlehem District, the bodies of two Arabs were found this evening: 67-year-old Mahmud Musa Abu-Zamir from the village of (Khallat al-Guz), and 36-year-old 'Ali Muhammad Musa al-'Aruj. They were both shot. 'Ali al-'Aruj was tied to a pole at the Tamra junction and shot in the head.

'Terrorists' Shoot at Qatif Settler; No Casualties

TA0104091893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] This morning terrorists fired shots at an Israeli farmer working in Kfar Darom in the Qatif Bloc. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Soldiers who accompanied the Kfar Darom settler returned fire. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the terrorists escaped. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] launched combing operations.

Bomb Safely Detonated on Mount Gilboa' Road

TA0104055493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] A roadside bomb was discovered on a Mount Gilboa' road leading from the village of Malkishua' to Merav. The bomb was discovered by a resident of the region and was safely detonated by a police sapper. A pamphlet was discovered near the bomb.

The police are currently conducting wide-scale searches in the area, which is adjacent to the Green Line. Searches are also being conducted in nearby villages in the territories. [passage omitted]

Rafi Peled Appointed New Police Commissioner

TA3103164293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Rafi Peled was promoted today and appointed the new Israel Police commissioner in place of Ya'aqov Terner. In his first interview after the appointment, Commissioner Rafi Peled addressed himself to the murder of the two policemen near Hadera, saying that the police will draw their conclusions from the attack.

Absence of Arab Workers Causing Economic Slowdown

TA3103134093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Today, the economy begins trying to adjust to the absence of over 100,000 Palestinian workers from the territories. Construction and farming have been hardest hit. Police throughout the country have been apprehending Arab workers who violated the closure. Some have even tried to use force to get back to their jobs in Israel. David Essing reports:

South of Jerusalem, an Arab bus from the territories tried to break through a police roadblock. A police officer signalled the bus driver but the driver deliberately tried to crash through the barrier and enter Jerusalem. The bus was transporting Palestinian workers from the territories. The driver was taken in for questioning. Throughout the country there was a slowdown at construction sites, some are totally paralyzed by the absence of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Overnight, police in Tel Aviv arrested 300 Palestinians from the territories who stayed over illegally. Some were taken back to the territories, others were detained for questioning. Elsewhere in the coastal plain, another 100 residents from the Gaza Strip were arrested. Their employers were charged by the police. Border Police moved into the Shu'fat refugee camp outside of Jerusalem arresting 20 suspects. The camp was sealed off before the operation began following repeated disorders, the blocking of roads, and the stoning of policemen recently. The police were accompanied by inspectors from income tax and the Broadcasting Authority who were looking for tax and license evaders.

Police in the capital have also been looking for Arabs from the territories who entered Jerusalem. Over 70 Palestinians were rounded up. [passage omitted]

European 'Troika' Arrives for Political, Economic Talks

TA0104113293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation from the EC is here for political and economic talks with the Israeli leaders. They will also have a meeting with representatives of the Palestinians. The delegation is headed by the Danish foreign minister, Niels Helveg Petersen. At Ben-Gurion Airport, where the delegation landed a short time ago, was Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The troika flew into Israel after visits to Jordan, Syria, and, this morning, Lebanon. The head of the troika, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, said he and his colleagues had gained the distinct impression that all the Arab parties are very keen to renew the peace negotiations. He also expressed concern about the violence which has been taking place here in Israel and in the territories.

[Petersen] The EC ministerial troika is visiting the region at a moment when developments give rise to serious concerns. A vicious circle of violence and terror in the occupied territories seems deepening. It certainly makes itself felt also in Israel. The EC firmly condemns the recent killings, including the murders of two Israeli policemen.

[Katzenell] Petersen said there was an urgent need for peace talks in order to end the violence and for confidence-building measures by all parties to the conflict. The troika was welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] We believe that it is important that you're coming in such tense days to the Middle East, to Israel, in order to have an objective view about the conflict and perhaps also about the attitude of the different parties and the ways and means to put an end to this ongoing conflict, the longest since World War II.

[Katzenell] Beilin told me just before the troika arrived that only by seeing for themselves could the European ministers gain an objective understanding of Israel's problems. [end recording]

European 'Troika' Delegation Visits Amman

Meets With PLO Officials

JN3103155093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The European "troika" delegation today held an expanded meeting at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel with a PLO delegation, headed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Faruq Qaddumi stated that discussions with the European officials focused on the problems and obstacles erected by Israel which are hindering the peace process, and the subsequent stalemate in efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the regional conflict. Discussions also dealt with the deportee issue, he said.

Qaddumi added that the Palestinian side stressed the need to exert European pressure to remove the Israeli obstacles, especially since the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are facing an escalation in the terrorist operations carried out against them. Qaddumi said: The European side stressed the need to resume negotiations, and we emphasized our care for their resumption after the obstacles placed by Israel are removed. He noted that the Europeans do not carry new ideas but will give advice to the concerned parties to promote the peace process in light of their relations with these parties.

Qaddumi pointed out that the "troika" delegation affirmed its condemnation and rejection of deportations, and stressed the need for implementing Security Council Resolution 799 on the deportees. The delegation also affirmed its continued support for the bases of the peace process, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, he added.

EC Envoys, PLO's Qaddumi Comment

NC3103171293 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Amman, March 31 (AFP)—E.C. envoys said after talks with the PLO here Wednesday that all sides in the Middle East peace process must offer "confidence building measures" to help jump-start the stalled negotiations.

The officials are touring the Middle East to help revive the peace negotiations, stalled since Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories in mid-December.

Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, British Deputy Undersecretary of State in charge of Middle East and Africa Affairs Mark Elliott, and Belgian Minister for European Affairs Robert Urbain as well as E.C. Foreign Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Broek took part in the meeting.

It was the first such encounter since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, during which the Palestine Liberation Organisation opposed the U.S.- led military campaign to evict Iraq from Kuwait.

"There should now be pressure on all parties to come forward with confidence building measures," said Petersen, heading the "Troika" delegation of the current, last and next presidents of the European Community.

"We badly need that for a resumption of the bilateral talks," he said.

"There is now a real chance for peace and that opportunity must be utilized," he said. "We are here to tell the Arab world and Israel now is the time .. if not the situation may deteriorate. The present window of opportunity may not remain open."

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, said after the talks "pressure must be applied on Israel" to accept European and U.N. participation in the peace process, both of which have so far been limited to observer status.

Israel has resisted a more prominent E.C. role since the process was launched in October 1991, charging that Europe was pro-Arab.

However, Petersen said the E.C. did not want to play an "active role" in the bilaterals, which should be limited to those "directly involved."

The next round is set to resume April 20 in Washington but the Palestinians have refused to return to the negotiating table before a solution to the deportees.

The E.C. envoys later arrived in Damascus, the second leg of a Middle East swing that will take them to Lebanon and Israel. They were to have talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and may meet President Hafiz al-Asad.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN3103134093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Jordanian side, headed by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, and a delegation of European "troika" foreign ministers, headed by Danish Foreign Minister Mr. Pedersen, held a session of talks at the Foreign Ministry today. On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah, Minister of Planning Dr. Ziyad Fariz, and a number of senior officials.

Discussion focused on developments in the region, especially the peace process and means to promote this process and overcome the obstacles facing the resumption of peace negotiations between the Arab parties and Israel. Discussion during the session also dealt with bilateral relations and a number of issues of mutual interest.

The European "troika" delegation arrived in Amman today. It includes Robert Urbain, Belgian minister of European affairs; Mark Elliot, assistant undersecretary at the British Foreign Office; and Hans van den Broek, the EC commissioner.

The delegation was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and EC ambassadors in Amman.

Confers With King Husayn

JN3103173993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received the European "troika" delegation at Raghadan Palace today. His majesty expressed his satisfaction at the level of Jordanian-European relations and at both sides' keenness to develop and reinforce these ties in the service of common interests. His majesty noted the suffering and damage inflicted on Jordan as a result of absorbing thousands of Jordanian, Arab, and foreign refugees. He also noted the positive European understanding of Jordan's suffering and the burdens inflicted on its resources as a result of the Gulf crisis.

King Husayn noted that Jordan will proceed with Jordan's democratic march and will continue to entrench and develop this process so that it will become an example of human rights, liberties, security, and safety.

King Husayn reiterated Jordan's readiness to continue to participate in international peacekeeping forces as part of its contribution to world peace and to alleviating people's sufferings in areas of tension and fighting.

The king reviewed Jordan's position since the launching of the peace process and its providing of an umbrella for a joint delegation in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, and the balanced implementation of international legitimacy. King Husayn stressed the need for removing obstacles, halting the policy of displacement, the repressive measures committed by Israeli occupation forces, and its continuous attempts to obstruct the resumption of the peace process aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement that will be accepted and protected by future generations. His majesty touched on the issue of the Palestinian deportees and the resolution calling for their return home—the resolution which has yet to be implemented.

His majesty warned against the devastating consequences which might result from the continuation of the difficult situation and against the frustration, despair, violence, and conflagration that would result.

The European "troika" delegation praised Jordan's balanced stand, its concern for developing Jordanian-European relations, and its call for giving momentum to the peace process.

Talks also dealt with regional developments and the current international situation. The talks were held in a spirit aimed at achieving stability, entrenching human rights, ending hotbeds of aggression, tension, and factional and racist conflicts.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, and Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz. On the European side, the talks were attended by the Danish foreign minister and head of the delegation, the Belgian minister of European affairs, the assistant undersecretary for Middle East and African affairs at the British Foreign Office, and the EC commissioner for foreign relations.

His majesty the king also hosted a luncheon banquet at Raghadan Palace today. The luncheon was attended by the members of the Jordanian and European delegations and the ambassadors of the EC in Jordan.

Leaves for Damascus

JN3103175893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Niels Petersen, Danish foreign minister and head of the European "troika" delegation, has stressed the importance of Jordan's role in promoting the peace process as well as Jordan's commitment to this process through the bilateral and multilateral peace talks.

In a news conference held at Amman Civil Airport before leaving for Damascus at noon today, at the conclusion of the delegation's visit to Jordan on the first leg of a regional tour aimed at reactivating the peace process, Petersen lauded Jordan's democratic march in spite of the difficult circumstances in the region. Petersen said the delegation's talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials were constructive, fruitful, and frank. He affirmed the great similarity in viewpoints between the two sides on the issues discussed, particularly those related to the peace process and the need for its resumption.

Petersen voiced the EC's readiness to play a more effective role in the peace process in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace, as well as respecting the rights of all people of the region to live inside secure borders within the framework of the Madrid conference formula.

For his part, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said the outcome of today's Jordanian-European talks with the "troika" delegation was positive, excellent, frank, and fruitful. He asserted that the viewpoints of both sides were identical on the importance of peace as a necessity for the region and the world. Abu-Jabir reaffirmed the bases upon which Jordan relies to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. He said:

The European delegation expressed its appreciation of the Jordanian stand, and we also expressed our appreciation of the European stand. Abu-Jabir asserted that Jordan supports the peace efforts aimed at achieving fair and practical results, and not at holding negotiations only for the sake of negotiations.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by the foreign minister, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and a number of European ambassadors in Jordan.

Prime Minister Confers With PLO Team

JN3103210293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] In a meeting at the Prime Ministry this evening, His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, reviewed the outcome of the meeting of foreign ministers from Arab states concerned with the peace process held in Damascus at the beginning of this week.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides discussed ways to continue joint action and coordination on the peace process and the obstacles facing it. They also discussed the outcome of contacts and meetings which the Palestinian side held with the U.S. Administration in hopes of removing these obstacles. The two sides made a comprehensive assessment of various Arab and international impediments related to the peace process, as well as the outcome of the Jordanian and Palestinian meetings with the European troika delegation today. Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, [PLO Executive Committee member]; Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, [head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab- Israeli talks]; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, [political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat]; Sa'ib 'Urayqat, [member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation]; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman. Following the meeting, Qaddumi gave the following statement to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] Our talks focused on the need to care for the peace process from a position of strength and not from a position of weakness. We came up with results. We will continue our talks in the future, God willing, according to developments that take place within this short period of time. We were definitely keen on keeping the Arab stand a united one. [end recording]

Fatah Official Assassinated in Beirut

NC0104112493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Within the framework of liquidations among Palestinian factions, Lieutenant Colonel Husayn Salim, known as Yunis 'Awwad, was assassinated this morning near Aluha shopping center in Tallat al-Khayyat while he was leaving his house. An Internal Security unit led by Major Fawzi Badran, commander of al-Musaytibah detachment, went to the scene and began an investigation. The murdered Palestinian served as the official in charge of the region of Beirut and the coast for Fatah Movement. He left Lebanon in late 1991 and returned some time ago to resume his activity. It should be noted that with today's killing, the liquidations have moved from the camps of the south to the heart of the capital, Beirut.

EC 'Troika' Delegation Arrives, Meets Buwayz

NC0104092893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] An EC troika delegation led by Danish Foreign Minister Niels Peterson arrived in Beirut this morning. It was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, British Ambassador to Lebanon Maeve Geraldine Fort, and other officials.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz's meeting with the EC troika delegation ended at 1015 today. Following the meeting, Danish Foreign Minister Peterson said: The EC troika delegation held useful and constructive talks in a very frank atmosphere with the Lebanese foreign minister. The EC delegation expressed full support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity without the presence of any foreign forces. He added: We reaffirmed our full support for the implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 425 calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. Peterson said: We discussed the peace talks in general, particularly ways of achieving progress in Lebanese-Israeli relations. The EC believes it is necessary and vital to reenergize the ongoing peace process. The window for success that is currently open may not remain open. We have invited Lebanon to participate in the multilateral talks because they complement the bilaterals and have a positive effect on social and economic development in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Buwayz said: [Begin recording] First of all, we welcome the EC troika delegation. For a long time, we have been calling on the EC to play a more effective role because it is concerned in one way or another in the events in a region that is close to Europe and in a crisis of such dimensions merits the world's interest.

We have listened to the EC's view on the issue of peace in the region. We have expressed the concern of Lebanon and the Arab states toward the recent standoff in the peace talks. We have also explained the requirements for reactivating the peace process, whether in regard to proving Israel's credibility in dealing with the bases of the peace conference, in regard to U.S. seriousness in handling this issue, or in regard to the need to implement Resolution 799 calling for the return of the deportees.

We believe that the resumption of the conference requires more work. We are awaiting the efforts being made by several parties so that we will make the proper decision at the next meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the conference. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Process

PM0104105493 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Apr 93 pp 18-19

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by William Dahir in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dahir] As the ninth round of bilateral negotiations approaches, does the Lebanese foreign minister still believe that Lebanon and the region are in the last stage of labor before real peace is born?

[Buwayz] Actually, I believe that these negotiations or the peace process, after the cooling off period or the suspension because of the change of U.S. Administration and certain regional circumstances, especially the expulsion of the Palestinian deportees—I believe that the peace conference needs, now more than ever, to be enriched. It needs a new impetus. The two superpowers are required to play their full part as a driving force and as a judge or fair and just mediator more than ever before, in order to save the conference. [passage omitted]

The rejection and the extremism appearing in the Arab world are the result of the conviction reached by some that Israel cannot be a peace negotiator and that it can only be a war negotiator. Although this fundamentalism has assumed a religious or sectarian character, I am one of those who believe that, basically, this fundamentalism is political, stemming from the failure of the Arab regimes to regain legitimate Arab rights over the past 40 years.

That is why we are witnessing a race between peace and rejection, and that is why I believe that the role of the world, the international community, and the two superpowers is crucial for saving the situation. [passage omitted]

[Dahir] On what basis would the Arabs go to the negotiating table? Have you, as Arab countries, received any answers regarding this matter?

[Buwayz] Of course, and that was through extensive diplomatic contacts and through the direct messages I received yesterday, particularly the one from Secretary of State Christopher and the one I received through the envoy of Minister Kozyrev.

We feel that the conference sponsors really realize how crucial this phase is. We also feel that they fully understand that the parties need a boost and exceptional

efforts, but they still believe that the region's disputes can be settled through negotiations and that, in their view, it is wrong to say we will not go to the negotiations as long as there are problems because the fact that there are negotiations means that there are problems and we cannot say that the problems must be solved if we are to accept the principle of negotiations. The principle of negotiation is necessitated by the existence of problems.

The Americans and the Russians are trying to unravel some of the problems such as the issue of the deportees, the nature of the negotiations, and the issues to be raised.

[Dahir] Lebanon had asked the United States to reaffirm its commitments to it, particularly the commitments that were included in the letters of assurances. Did you get clear U.S. answers from Secretary Christopher when he was in Beirut?

[Buwayz] In order to assess the results of Secretary Christopher's visit to Beirut, we must consider what we expected from that visit. We expected to hear from the United States, after the change of administration, a confirmation of the previous positions on the basis of which the conference was held and on the basis of which Lebanon agreed to attend. The U.S. secretary did indeed confirm that U.S. position. So, from that angle we can say that, in substance, there is nothing new in the U.S. position. [passage omitted] The United States reaffirmed its commitment to playing the part of driving and steering force, if one can use that expression, and the part of fair and just mediator. So, the position in form and content remained the same. We also wanted to hear the U.S. secretary of state's views and wanted him to hear our views regarding implementation of Resolution 425. That took a major part of the meeting. We submitted our views and heard the U.S. views which could perhaps form a mechanism for the implementation of that resolution.

We could say that there is a particular American concept geared toward steering the negotiations in the direction of Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. We discussed these views.

[Dahir] On the question of the lifting of the U.S. arms ban and the training of Lebanese military personnel in the United States, everyone believes that the daring Lebanese Government and diplomatic efforts in this connection, with these issues strongly argued during Christopher's visit to Beirut, were successful at least in connection with the question of retraining at U.S. academies, but there is still that matter of the ban on the travel of U.S. nationals to Lebanon and the resumption of the Middle East Airlines [MEA] flights to the United States. What about these matters?

[Buwayz] During Secretary Christopher's visit to Lebanon, we, of course, raised the following four issues of bilateral relations: Resumption of the training of Lebanese officers at U.S. academies and institutes, resumption of the MEA flights, reopening of the U.S. consulate, and allowing U.S. nationals to visit Lebanon. Secretary Christopher has, as he promised, begun raising the issue in the U.S. Congress and, with his assistant Djerejian, argued in favor of such moves. A few days ago we were informed by Ambassador Crocker that a decision has already been made allowing the training of Lebanese Army personnel at U.S. academies and institutes. We believe that this marks the beginning of stronger U.S.-Lebanese relations.

[Dahir] Actually, for the fisrst time since the beginning of the second republic and as the next round of peace negotiations under the new U.S. Administration approaches, observers detect two Lebanese positions on the peace conference, one by the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the other by the government. The speaker has said that Lebanon should be rid of experimental policies.

[Buwayz] Read the statement of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies correctly.

[Dahir] We will read it. (We had a copy so we read it out—Dahir note). In it, Birri calls for ridding Lebanon of what he describes as "experimental policy. We have a UN resolution which we should try to free from the negotiations, otherwise Lebanon would be mortgaged to the results of these negotiations and would become a place where all kinds of bottled up Lebanese and regional feelings would erupt."

[Buwayz] This means that the speaker is calling on Israel and the Americans to implement Resolution 425 to rid Lebanon of the problem. That is why I say "read that statement correctly". It does not at all call for withdrawal from the negotiations. So far there has been no such request from the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

Authorities To Request U.S. Extradition of Hijacker

NC0104124593 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Mar 93 p 5

[Report by Bahjat Jabir]

[Excerpts] The Jabal Lubnan Public Prosecution Office has indicted Rida Yunus, aged 34, for hijacking a Jordanian plane and blowing it up in Beirut airport on 11 June 1985. Jabal Lubnan District Attorney Fawzi Daghir is in charge of the case.

Yunus has been serving a 30-year prison sentence in the United States since March 1989 after a federal court in Washington found him guilty of hijacking a Jordanian plane, holding its passengers hostage, and blowing it up in Beirut airport. [passage omitted]

Khadr al-Harakah, a defense lawyer representing Yunus, has filed a request with the Special Public Prosecution Office [al-niyabah al-'ammah al-tamyiziyah] for Yunus to be extradited from the United States on the grounds that Lebanese judiciary alone has the right to try Yunus for a crime committed in Lebanon. The lawyer said that U.S. intelligence agents used subterfuge to lure Yunus

outside the country, abduct him, and transfer him to the United States. The subsequent trial, al-Harakah maintained, was conducted in violation of international law and norms.

It has been learned that the Special Public Prosecution Office is about to file a petition with the U.S. Administration demanding the extradition of Yunus to Lebanon to try him before Lebanese courts. The indictment issued yesterday against Yunus was in preparation for that move.

Israel Said To Kidnap 5 Fishermen off Tyre

NC3103173893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Maritime sources have reported that the Israeli Navy today kidnapped five Lebanese fishermen off the coast of Tyre within Lebanese territorial waters. The sources said that the five fishermen set out at dawn today together with about 30 others on board six boats. When an Israeli speedboat was seen approaching, five boats escaped, but the boat of fisherman Ghalib Sabri with four other men on board could not escape as the fishermen were busy collecting their nets. The boat with the five fishermen was towed by the Israeli boat to Israel.

Two Lebanese fishermen were kidnapped last week. They were released after 48 hours and given a message from the Israeli authorities warning Hizballah against launching attacks against Israel.

Fishermen Released 1 Apr

NC0104105693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Israeli Navy this morning released five Lebanese it detained yesterday while they were fishing off the coast of Tyre within Lebanese territorial waters. Navigation sources said the five fishermen—the owner of the fishing boat and four sailors—returned to Tyre on board their boat. [passage omitted]

Israeli Gunboats Shell Camp in North; 3 Injured

NC0104102593 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, April 1 (AFP)—Israeli helicopters and motorboats attacked guerrilla bases at a camp in northern Lebanon early Thursday [1 April] wounding three Palestinians, Palestinian sources said.

The Israelis targeted a base of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and an old position of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement at the Nahr al-Barid refugee camp, they said. It was the first such Israeli raid on northern Lebanon this year.

Palestinians fired back with heavy weapons and multiple-rocket launchers and deployed men along the coast to prevent an Israeli landing in a battle lasting two hours, the Palestinians said.

The boats fired several dozen shells and nearly hit a nearby Syrian position. One of the injured guerrillas was in serious condition, the sources said.

In Jerusalem, a military spokesman said the bases were "starting points for terrorist operations against Israel" and that the Israeli forces returned safely.

Several buildings were damaged by shrapnel at the camp which lies on the coast 10 kilometers (six miles) from the port of Tripoli, a correspondent at the scene said.

Israel last attacked positions in northern Lebanon in 1991. Last year, Israeli forces killed four Islamic Jihad guerrillas off the coast from Nahr al-Barid.

Refugee camps in northern Lebanon are controlled by pro-Syrian Palestinian organizations opposed to the Middle East peace process.

DFLP Claims Killing 7 Israeli Soldiers in South

NC0104063293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] In a statement last night, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced that one of its groups ambushed an occupation forces patrol near the village of Marwahin in the western sector of the occupied strip. An enemy tank was destroyed and its crew of about seven soldiers were killed.

EC Delegation Arrives; al-Shar' Comments

JN3103181893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] An EC delegation, headed by Niels Petersen, Danish foreign minister and current president of the EC Foreign Ministerial Council, and including Belgian Minister of European Affairs Robert Urbain, EC Foreign Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Broek, and Mark Elliot, British deputy assistant foreign undersecretary for the Middle East and Africa, arrived in Damascus this evening.

The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, as well as the Danish, Belgian, British, and Dutch ambassadors in Damascus.

In a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen said: The EC delegation's visit to Damascus is aimed at holding talks with Syrian officials so that the EC can convey its opinion and the importance of reviving the peace process and resuming bilateral talks between the concerned parties. Petersen added that the EC will urge the activation of the peace process and a resumption of the peace talks. He said: During this visit, we will hold very important talks and convey the EC's willingness to play a role in the multilateral talks, especially with regard to the economic aspects of these negotiations.

Responding to a question on the EC's role in promoting the peace process, especially in terms of the deportee issue, Petersen said: The EC urges all parties to resume the talks in Washington. We now see an opportunity to achieve peace and move the peace process forward. This opportunity should be utilized by all parties.

For his part, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' responded to questions from reporters about his expectations in terms of an EC role in promoting the peace process. He said: We hope the EC will help all concerned parties remove the obstacles facing the resumption of talks. He added: We hope that Europe will play a more active role in promoting the peace process by contributing to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and assisting in frankly telling the Israelis that they should comply with Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates the speedy return of the Palestinian deportees.

Responding to a question regarding his expectations, in terms of the outcome of the discussions which will soon be held with the United States on the deportee issue, al-Shar' said: There are current consultations among all Arab parties and the United States, in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace process. We hope that these consultations will be fruitful and allow all concerned parties to resume the peace process as soon as possible and without any obstacles remaining in its path.

Al-Shar' Comments After Talks

JN3103200793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] A Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a visiting EC troika delegation, under the leadership of Danish Foreign Minister Niels Peterson, held a round of talks at 1800 today. The troika side at the talks also included Belgian Minister of European Affairs Robert Urbain; Mark Elliot, assistant undersecretary at the British Foreign Office; and EC Foreign Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Broek.

For Syria, the talks were joined by Assistant Foreign Minister Ruslan 'Allush and the heads of the Economic Department and the West Europe Department in the Foreign Ministry, as well as the foreign minister's office chief. Also taking part in the talks were members of the visiting delegation and the ambassadors of Denmark, Belgium, and Britain in Damascus.

The two sides discussed the peace process and the outcome of a recent Damascus meeting convened by the Arab parties engaged in the peace process to coordinate moves. The Syrian and European sides also talked about the deportee issue and Europe's position on UN Security Council Resolutions 799, 242, and 338. They stressed the need for Israel to vacate the occupied Arab land and agreed that Syria and Europe should consolidate their ties in their mutual interest and to further regional security and stability.

The European side agreed that Israel must respect and honor Resolution 799, demanding the repatriation of the deportees.

Emerging from the talks, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told reporters that the two sides exchanged views on the peace process and that the Europeans were briefed on the outcome of the Damascus meeting of Arab parties directly involved in the peace process. Also discussed during the meeting was the Palestinian deportee issue and Europe's position on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. The two sides also agreed that Israel must withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, and the Syrian side raised the issue of double standards utilized toward the implementation of UN resolutions and the failure to make Israel honor Resolution 799, demanding that it take back the Palestinian deportees. They also examined Syrian-European relations and agreed to enhance these ties so as to further their bilateral interests and regional security and stability.

The European side stressed that Israel must respect and honor UN Security Council Resolution 799, and the troika team, including the EC commissioner, noted that Syria is a key player in the region and in the search for peace.

EC Delegation Departs

JN0104144593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The EC troika delegation, led by Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen, left Damascus this morning at the end of a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The delegation members were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Raslan 'Allush, assistant to the foreign minister and ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the ambassadors of Denmark, Belgium, Britain, and the Netherlands in Damascus.

In a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent, Petersen described the EC troika delegation's talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as fruitful and constructive, and said they dealt with the peace process in general.

He added that the EC has stressed the importance of reviving the peace process at this time in particular, and of seizing this chance for peace. Petersen said: The talks have left the clear impression that Syria is committed to the peace process.

Paper Criticizes European Mideast Role

JN0104081293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the required European role in the Middle East, affirming that the arrival of the European troika delegation in Damascus for talks on the ways and means of advancing the Middle East peace process is appreciated by the Arabs. The paper indicates that European action in this regard has thus far remained confined to making statements expressing wishes and hopes.

TISHRIN adds: Just like the Americans, the Europeans have chosen to ignore Israel's criminal deportation of hundreds of Palestinians for no reason other than their love for their homeland. The Europeans viewed as positive Israel's agreement to repatriate only 100 of the deportees stranded in southern Lebanon to Israeli prisons and detention centers, whereas Security Council Resolution 799 provides for the immediate and safe repatriation of all deportees.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Similarly, the Europeans have chosen to remain silent over the current serious situation in the occupied Arab territories. We have not heard any European statement condemning the criminal cold-blooded murder of a handcuffed Palestinian by a Zionist settler. Likewise, we have not heard any European official condemn the criminal murder of an 11-year old Palestinian girl who was carrying a wooden doll, which an Israeli Army colonel allegedly mistook for a rifle.

TISHRIN wonders whether the Europeans and Americans expect the Arabs to remain totally passive and turn a blind eye to the ferocious Zionist repression currently unfolding in the occupied territories.

The paper affirms that the Arabs are advocates of true and honorable peace—a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts. The paper adds: The Arabs strongly desire to see the international community effectively engaged in the efforts to achieve peace. Consequently, they want an effective U.S. role as well as an effective European role. However, the performance of such roles requires a reasonable degree of integrity, objectivity, balance, as well as true commitment to the UN Charter, conventions, and resolutions.

Vatican Official Arrives on Visit, Makes Statement

JN3103144793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus' western entrance by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister's assistant, the director of protocol, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Vatican charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Monsignor Tauran made a statement to a SANA correspondent. He explained that his visit to Syria is related to a series of initiatives made by his holiness the pope on the regional peace process, despite the fact that the Vatican is not a party to this process. Tauran added that he will brief Syrian officials on the Vatican's standpoint regarding the peace process. He had explained this standpoint in Egypt, Morocco, and Lebanon.

Concluding his statement, Tauran expressed hope that peace will prevail in this important region of the world, which embraces the holy places.

Meets With al-Asad, al-Shar'

JN0104123693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, at 1345 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also received Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, earlier today. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, the two sides discussed international developments, the regional situation, the peace process, and the deportee issue. They also reviewed positive developments in Lebanon and emphasized the importance of reinforcing bilateral relations.

More on al-Asad Meeting

JN0104161593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Apr (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, at 1345 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Monsignor Tauran conveyed to the president the greetings of Pope John Paul II. The president asked Tauran to convey his greetings and good wishes to the pope. Talks dealt with the Middle East peace process. Monsignor Tauran appreciated Syria's role in unleashing the Middle East peace process and its care for the continuation of this process. He said that peace in the Middle East is important to the entire world, and that the Vatican cares for the continuation of the peace process and for human rights and peoples' freedom.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's adherence to both the peace process and the objectives set for it, foremost among them being the return of the territories and rights to their owners.

Al-Zu'bi Confers With Lebanese Delegation

JN0104152893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Apr

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has received a fraternal delegation from the Lebanese Government comprising Minister of Agriculture 'Adil Qirtas, Minister of Industry and Oil As'ad Rizq, and Minister of Economy and Trade Hagob Yarwan Demerdjian, and the director of customs.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of finance and foreign trade.

At the outset of the meeting, the delegation conveyed the greetings of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who asked the delegation to convey his regards to al-Hariri.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the bilateral brotherly and cooperative relations within the framework of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty signed by the two countries in the interest of the two brotherly peoples.

Syrian, Iranian Interior Ministers Hold Talks

LD0104155493 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, April 1, IRNA—Iranian Interior Minister Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri held talks with his Syrian counterpart, Mohammed Harba, here Thursday [1 April]. The Iranian minister arrived here yesterday on his way back from Saudi Arabia.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar on Cabinet Submissions, Defense Appointment

LD0104105593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar told our reporter in Kabul today that he will be submitting the names of his cabinet to President Borhanoddin Rabbani this evening after final talks with jehadi leaders and representatives. He recalled that the names of the members of the new cabinet have been approved by most of the parties and will be issued to the public next week.

Golboddin Hekmatyar stressed that, as prime minister, he will be appointing the minister of defense. He said: An Islamic national army will be formed in which all the groups will participate. He added: A special meeting will be convened this afternoon with the participation of the representatives and leaders of groups to start work on the (?five-member) commissions dealing with peace, the distribution of foodstuffs, and military and financial appointments.

In conclusion, Afghanistan's prime minister noted that the future policy of his government is to establish friendly and profound relations with neighboring countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran.

More on Hekmatyar Remarks

LD0104140093 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0905 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] In an interview with BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] and Kabul radio reporters, Brother Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan and prime minister-designate of the country, stated that all jehadi leaders should [words indistinct], Islam, the nation, and peace, and (?should stop insisting on) obtaining ministries.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that after a meeting yesterday with a Jami'at-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] delegation, brother Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and prime minister-designate of Afghanistan, answered questions put to him by the BIA and Radio Kabul correspondents. [passage omitted]

He said: We want to form a comprehensive cabinet and peace should be maintained in the country in line with the agreement reached in Mecca. It is hoped that the cabinet list will be submitted to the president today.

Concerning the Defense Ministry, Prime Minister-designate Brother Hekmatyar, said: There is no problem with the Defense Ministry. The authority for forming a cabinet rests with the prime minister and the cabinet should be formed by the prime minister in consultation with the president and the jehadi leaders. These consultations have been completed. The Defense Ministry is a part of the cabinet and will (?work) like other ministries. The appointment of one minister should not be the cause of problems. All jehadi leaders should insist on (?serving) God, Islam, the nation, and peace in the country. They should stop insisting on (?obtaining ministries) [passage indistinct]. We should have such a Defense Ministry to maintain peace in the country and form an Islamic army.

Hekmatyar added: Our government should not have to face opposition. We are ready to share with all parties on the basis of equality. Hezb and Jami'at must to be satisfied with [words indistinct]. And until elections are held and a legal government and a constitution come into effect and the president and parliament are elected, they should refrain from holding the key ministries. A three-man delegation has been appointed to continue discussions.

National Islamic Movement Submits Cabinet Choices

LD0104120293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] General Mohammad Homayun, deputy head of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, in an interview today with the correspondent of the Voice and Vision in Kabul, described the implementation of the Islamabad agreement as a necessity for Afghanistan and hoped that the cabinet would soon be formed.

He announced that the National Islamic Movement has submitted the names of the members it has selected for Afghanistan's new cabinet to the prime minister. He said: In light of the current situation of Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defense should be administered on the basis of a council [showra'i]; otherwise, the restoration of order and security in Kabul and other regions of the country will be difficult.

Bangladesh

Talks on Water Resources With India Begin

BK3003131493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Dhaka, March 30 (AFP)—Two days of talks between Bangladesh and India on use of their common rivers opened here Tuesday with the hosts reiterating their charge that India is swallowing too much water from the Ganges.

Water levels in the Ganges are now so low that parts of northern Bangladesh are turning into desert, Bangladesh officials said.

The meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) will focus on the Ganges and other common rivers and was a follow-up to the last meeting in December in New Delhi.

Bangladesh Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Secretary Mohammad Asafuddaula and Indian counterpart C.D. Thatte were leading their respective sides at the talks.

Dhaka will continue to press for a permanent water-sharing agreement for the Ganges after the last short-term agreement expired in 1988, officials said.

Earlier this month, official sources here said they would build a 110 billion taka (2.82 billion dollar) barrage across the Pangsha river, a tributary of the Ganges, to counter desertification in northern Bangladesh blamed on India's Farakka barrage.

Officials said the water level of the Ganges registered a sharp fall at the start of the current dry season to an all-time low of 258 cubic metres (9,030 cubic feet) per second, hastening the process of desertification in the underdeveloped northern parts of Bangladesh.

India's Farraka barrage was put into operation in 1975 and officials said ever since then India's "unilateral withdrawal of water against all international norms and laws" had continued to have a negative environmental impact on Bangladesh, affecting river transportation and the environment.

Official sources said the withdrawal of water by India in the current season has forced the closure of a major Bangladesh's irrigation project supplying water to 120,000 acres (48,000 hectares) during the March-June dry season.

World Bank Proposal on Currency Devaluation Rejected

BK2803092993 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 20 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Zahiduzzaman Faruq]

[Text] The World Bank has advised Bangladesh to devalue its currency to increase its export earnings. The Bangladesh finance minister, Mr. Saifur Rahman, however, has rejected this suggestion and asked all concerned to evolve ways and means to boost the export of Bangladeshi goods in the international market. It may be mentioned that at present the exchange rate of the taka with the 10 strong currencies of the world is determined as per the recommendation of the World Bank. Due to this, the taka-dollar exchange rate in the foreign currency market has remained almost static for more than a year. On the other hand, the secondary exchange market has also been closed down. As a result, the official taka-dollar exchange rate ranges between taka 38.50 and taka 39.20 per dollar. In the black market this rate varies between taka 40.25 and taka 41.75.

The World Bank is exerting pressure on Bangladesh to devalue its currency, while the IMF is silent in this regard. The World Bank's logic is that as Bangladeshi and Indian goods compete with each other in the international market, India's decision to make its currency fully convertible is likely to have an adverse impact on Bangladeshi goods. This will also discourage Bangladeshi exporters.

In this regard, the Bangladesh finance minister and the Bangladesh Bank have a different opinion. The minister said Bangladeshi products like jute, jute goods, and tea may suffer losses in the international market not due only to the full convertibility of the Indian currency but other factors too. He said currency devalution will not help to boost exports. The minister added that Bangladesh is basically an import-oriented country. If the currency is devalued then not only the cost of imported goods but also the cost of locally produced goods will rise. This will create a new crisis in the economic sector. The finance minister added that the production capacity of Indian mills and factories is several times greater than that of Bangladeshi industries. He said this is why Bangladesh is not in favor of devaluing its currency, as prescribed by the World Bank. It is learned that the Bangladesh Bank has started making an urgent study on what effects a devaluation would have on the country's economy.

India

Fire Breaks Out at Atomic Power Plant

BK0104032093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Narora atomic power station's number one unit which was operating at 190 megawatt electricity automatically switched to a self shut-down state after a fire broke out today in the turbine generator. The Department of Atomic Energy said in a press release that there was no loss of life or injuries to the plant personnel and there was no radiation hazard to the personnel or public. In accordance with the specified safety procedures, an emergency confined to the plant only was declared. Efforts are being made to investigate the cause of the fire in the generator located in the turbine building. Unit number two of the station was earlier shut down for maintenance work.

No Radiation Leakage

BK3103162793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP)—A fire broke out in the turbine generator of an Indian atomic power station early Wednesday, but there was no radiation leakage and no one was injured, officials here said.

Authorities immediately declared an emergency at the Narora Atomic Power Station, located in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, and ordered an inquiry into the accident.

It was the first known fire at the Narora atomic station.

An official spokeswoman said the fire was confined to the turbine building, built outside the reactor. "No loss of life or injury to the plant personnel has been reported and there was no radiation hazard to them or the public."

She could not say how big the fire was, but added that the station's unit one "was automatically tripped to a safe shut down state."

"There is no report of radioactivity either within the plant premises or to the public," the spokeswoman said.

"Efforts are being made to investigate the cause of the fire," she said.

Export-Import Policy Changes Announced in Lok Sabha

BK3103161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Major concessions to agriculture and services sectors are the highlights of the export-import policy changes announced in the Lok Sabha today. The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, made a statement listing important changes in the 1992-97 exim policy which comes into force from tomorrow. Dropping of 144 items from the negative list of exports, simplification of the criteria for recognition of export houses, trading houses and star trading houses, and deletion of an import window at 25 percent duty under the export promotion capital goods scheme are the other notable features.

The benefits of duty-free imports for export-oriented units and export promotion zone scheme have been extended to agriculture and allied sectors, providing the export a minimum 50 percent of their production. The criteria for recognition of export houses has been simplified and will now be based on their FOB [free on board] value of physical exports. In order to encourage the use of indigenous inputs by export units, the formula of value addition has been revised, excluding the value of indigenous inputs from the computation of value addition.

Recognizing the importance of the services sector, the government has announced a new export promotion capital goods scheme for the sector. It allows those who render professional services like architects, engineers, journalists, and scientists to import capital equipment at a concessional duty of 15 percent. The scheme is also open to hotels, travel agents, and diagnostic centers.

Commerce Minister on Steps To Boost Agricultural Exports

BK0104093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has expressed confidence that agricultural exports would touch about $5 billion by the end of the eighth plan. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the thrust area in the modified exim [export-import] policy would be to increase agricultural and service sector exports through greater investment. Mr. Mukherjee said of the 144 items removed from the negative list of exports, several items pertain to agricultural commodities. Replying to a question on whether the Dunkel proposals would come in the way of agricultural exports, the minister said he does not anticipate any adverse effects in this regard. He said the center would soon announce a scheme to involve the state governments in boosting exports. The scheme finalized by the Planning Commission has been circulated to the states. He said it might be discussed at the next meeting of the National Development Council on Monday. The commerce minister said the special emphasis on agricultural exports aims at increasing the income-generating capacities of farmers. He said the directorate general of foreign trade is being strengthened to identify fake exports and eliminate them.

The minister of state for commerce, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, held a meeting in New Delhi last night to review the performance of agricultural and marine exports during the financial year just ended. He expressed satisfaction at the achievement of the export target of $2,000 million. The meeting was attended by chairmen of commodity boards and associations.

Farmers Rally for Open Market, Threaten Noncooperation

BK3103160993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP)—Thousands of Indian farmers staged a rally here Wednesday demanding freedom from state controls, throwing their weight behind GATT proposals on agriculture and threatening a non-cooperation campaign.

"Death to the license-permit rule," chanted the nearly 50,000 farmers who gathered at the Old Delhi site of a weekly "thieves' market" after the government refused to allow the rally near parliament.

Sharad Joshi, the leader of the Farmers' Coordination Committee which sponsored the rally, said it was time that Indian agriculture entered the open-market era of free trade.

Speaking from atop a bus that served as a makeshift stage under a hot sun, Joshi told the demonstrators that Indian farmers did not need state patronage and the shackles that came along with it.

"We don't need subsidies. We don't need administrative interference," he said in a speech greeted with repeated applause. "We want to be left to our own devices.

"We want the freedom to sell our produce anywhere we wish—from the village market to Delhi to London,"

Joshi said calling for a removal of restrictions on agricultural exports and controls on movement of foodgrains.

Joshi said GATT secretary-general Arthur Dunkel's draft proposals on agriculture served the interests of Indian farmers. "We thank Dunkel," he said, adding that the proposals would help free and globalise trade in agriculture.

The demonstrators adopted a resolution welcoming India's switch to an open market economy after four decades of semi-socialist insulation, and demanded that reforms be extended to the agricultural sector.

The resolution urged an end to licensing for agriculture-related industries such as fertiliser, sugar, alcohol and cotton and rice mills and a lifting of all quotas on farm exports.

It condemned last year's imports of three million tonnes of wheat and called for an abolition of "all governmental dumping of agricultural produce from abroad."

If New Delhi did not move to meet the demands, farmers across India would stop paying taxes and electricity and water bills, and not honour bank loan repayments, the resolution warned.

It called on "all productive forces" in industry and services to join the farmers' campaign.

Commentary Views Dunkel Draft on Trade, Agriculture

BK2603124093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Commentary by journalist D.S. Raizada: "Dunkel Draft: Impact on Indian Agriculture"]

[Text] The 31st of March 1993, the last date for accepting or rejecting Dunkel's draft, is approaching fast and Narasimha Rao's government has not yet given its clear reaction so far. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's ministry was very clear: India will watch her interests and would not accept American dictation howsoever sugar-coated to remedy our ills. In fact, Arthur Dunkel, through his draft at the Uruguay round of talks, is pleading for the benefit of America and none else. The 500-page draft circulated in December 1991 got into worse controversy over farm subsidies between the USA and the European Community, but the heat is directed toward developing mute and spineless countries whose cause India has been advocating at the international forums.

When GATT first met at a place called Punta del Este in Uruguay more than five years ago, India, helped by Brazil, walked tall. It was the leader of the Nonaligned Movement, [word indistinct] SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] as a senior member, and enjoyed much clout among the Group of 77, and championed the cause of the Third World. India opposed the inclusion of patents and services under the overall umbrella of trade. The inclusion was sought by the USA. Dunkel draft demands trade-related intellectual property rights should be extended to the process and the product that shall be effective for 20 long years. This clause binds India and other countries to buy the copyrights for all plant species, drugs, and chemicals. This will cost a big fortune every time. In the market, India at present recognizes only process patent and or the product patent. The Indian patent allows Indian technologists and scientists to improve or modify the process without liability to pay for the original patent. It is in line with American approach, who does not pay for original seed.

America has been threatening India action under its laws called Special 301 and Super 301. Now it wants to do the same under GATT dispensation. Taking specifically farm sector, Dunkel says that all plants genetic sources belong to the entire mankind and not the countries they belong to. This means basic plants enjoy no patent or no price and anybody is free to take them away from wherever they are available and use from the developing and improved variety. But this improved variety belongs individual country which has developed it and their use has to be licensed every time. That means farmer cannot use his own seed without paying royalty for second and subsequent times for at least 20 years. This approach is wholly immoral because Third World is the home of biodiversity. It is also the birthplace of all plant plasma and miracle genes in every plant. Equity demands that either the world treat both plant plasma and new varieties as belonging to the entire mankind or fix a value and price on both. The Dunkel proposals simply say that the Third World's precious property is everybody's and the First World's modified version is its solely.

The Dunkel proposal also wants free trade in food grains without quantitative restrictions at the border, but on its side America is putting antidumping laws on imports of industrial goods of other countries. Because USA produces farm products more than it needs, so it must get access to international market without quantitative restrictions. Then developing countries are not allowed to subsidize the farm inputs beyond 10 percent of the difference between market price and international price and can create buffer stock by buying grains at market price; only that, too, for six years, later no subsidy. Let the farmers pay for inputs at market price which is always much higher than the controlled or subsidized rates.

Once India signs the draft, it has to dismantle all restrictions on the movement and sale of agricultural products. The traders will gain, not the farmers who would be victims of underhand trade practices. Since the world is marked by uneven development, enlightened self-interest ordains that any global policy should seek to rectify the uneven development rather than accentuate it. But Dunkel draft would make rich countries richer and that, too, at the cost of poor ones, and the poor would become further poorer because of economic exploitation by advanced countries. A close look of U.S. trade policy, which is an integral part of President Clinton's economic

policy, aims at creating more high-paying jobs for Americans and creating global marketplace for American goods, both industrial and agricultural.

Commentary Welcomes Foreign Exchange Relaxation

BK2703131093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Commentary by V.K. Cherian of FINANCIAL EXPRESS: "FERA Amendment and After"]

[Text] With the passing of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Amendment [FERA] bill in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, India has entered a new era of foreign investment giving a free hand to the multinational companies and the nonresident Indians [NRI's] wishing to invest in India. Now, the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] would have no power to impose restrictions or conditions on disposal of assets held in India by nonresident Indians or by those who want to become NRI's with the removal of Section 11 of the FERA Act 1973. The government has promulgated an ordinance in January and a bill sought to replace it. The ordinance was also intended to give legal status to a series of notifications issued by the RBI on foreign exchange dealings.

The political compulsion to bring the ordinance and the bill now giving it a constitutional status was provided by the widespread fear about country's law and order situation after the Ayodhya incidents. Replying to the criticism about the bill, the minister of state for finance, Mr. Abrar Ahmad, said the bill sought to remove the unnecessary controls on the economy and remove bottlenecks of the economy which has poised to join the international trade market. Already, the impact of the amendment to the MRTP [Monopolies and Restricted Trade Practises] Act and the FERA are being felt at the ground level. About a dozen multinationals are reportedly hiking their stakes in the Indian companies from 40 percent to 51 percent, keeping a substantial control over their operations. The bill and the ordinance described as a sensible package by the industry as a whole would permit the exporters to take out goods on rental, lease, hire, or any other basis under Section 18-A.

The government has also enhanced the limit of possession of foreign currency by a new section of 73-A. The new limit is $5,000. The bill only regulates the trade on gold or silver coins and also there is a general RBI permission to hold immovable property abroad. However, Section 23 of the FERA relating to the acquisition of foreign securities by the government for strengthening the foreign exchange position have been maintained. In the light of fresh amendments to FERA, industry hopes that the new-found freedom of the Indian companies would help them to become more competitive. They also hope that it would give a strong message to the foreign direct investors to take a clear look toward India as an investment destination. The foreign companies with their new technology and cost efficient methods also give their Indian counterparts a run for their money in most of the fields. However, it needs to be seen whether the foreign companies could make an effective marketing support for their products, considering their well-entrenched Indian system.

The FERA had become outdated over the years. The FERA had not only helped the country to save scarce foreign exchange, but also aimed at limiting foreign investment in the core sector and curbing the trade operations of the outsiders. With the country ideologically reoriented toward the open market, the amendment is [words indistinct] restricting the foreign investment appeared quite logical. However, the very fact that the government has not bothered to (?scrap) the FERA itself indicates the political compulsion of striking a balance to ward off criticism of a total sellout.

There is also a feeling that the amendment act is not enough. The penal provisions of the act are still there in the act. But the amendment is taken as a green signal for foreign investors reassuring them about the country's irreversible step toward open market economy. It will also remove fears about bureaucratic hurdles for the potential foreign investors. The dilution of the act would obviously put the country as attractive for the foreign investors as any of the ASEAN countries.

New Trade Arrangement With Nepal Goes Into Effect

BK0104035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A new trade arrangement to boost Nepalese exports to India comes into effect from today. Under this arrangement more items manufactured in Nepal will have duty-free and quota-free access to markets in India. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent says free movement of Nepalese private commercial vehicles has also been allowed to Calcutta and Haldia ports to promote its trade with third countries.

Our correspondent says the new arrangement which has been welcomed by trade and industry in Nepal will reduce the present trade imbalance between Nepal and India.

Government Rules out Privatization of Coal Mines

BK2903080393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Text] The government today ruled out privatization of coal mines in the country. The coal minister, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja, informed the Rajya Sabha today during question hour that the private sector will be allowed to have captive coal facilities if they are prepared to set up a power production plant in the coal mines. He said a bill in this connection is pending in parliament.

Mr. Panja said the World Bank has sanctioned 35 crore rupees for making a detailed study to control fire in the coal mines. He agreed that fire in coal mines come in the

way for achieving increased production of coal. The minister said French-type pattern is now used to control fire in the coal mines and said the government is in touch with the World Bank in this aspect.

Answering the main question, Mr. Panja said measures taken to increase coal productivity include introduction of new technologies, availability and utilization of equipment, and improved conditions in underground mines.

MP's Briefed on Developments in Defense Sector

BK0104091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The members of the parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Defense have been informed that acceptance of the main battle tank Arjun for service induction is an important milestone. A meeting of the committee, which was chaired by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and attended by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, and the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, was also informed that user trials of the Prithvi and Trishul missiles in the coming months and limited series production of the pilotless target aircraft are other important milestones.

Briefing the committee in New Delhi, the scientific adviser to the defense minister, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, said phase one of full-scale engineering development of the light combat aircraft is going on. The first rollout is planned for June 1996, six months ahead of schedule. He said the further trials of the Nag and Akash missiles are slated later this year. The MP's congratulated DRDO [Defense Research and Development Organization] on its performance and said the government should provide full budgetary support to its programs and projects. They emphasized the need to exercise proper and effective control over time and cost overruns.

French Firm Seeks To Supply Defense Forces

BK3103042393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Mar 93 p 13

[Text] New Delhi—Alcatel NV, the largest manufacturer of telecom equipment in the world, is keen to supply its high-tech equipment to Indian defence forces as well as undertake its local manufacture.

This Paris-based transnational with a turnver of over $ 21 billion is fast emerging as a major supplier of defence communication and control equipment the world over following the expiry of its agreement with Thomson-CSF of France in 1989 which prohibited it from making any direct exports. Alcatel had accepted this restriction in 1983 when it acquired telecom business of Thomson-CSF.

Mr. Pierre Samuel, vice-president (International) of Alcatel's Radio, Space and Defence (RSD) group, recently told visiting Indian correspondents in Paris that Alcatel would shortly make a presentation on communications, command, control and intelligence (C31) to the Indian Defence Minister.

Mr. Samuel said that Alcatel would apprise the defence ministry officials about all its products. "We are open to any solution," including field trials, credit package for equipment supplies as well as local manufacture.

He said that the company would like to manufacture the defence equipment at its proposed joint venture with Punjab Communications Limited (PCL), though this equipment was not included in the memorandum of understanding [MoU] between the two companies. If the Defence Ministry nominated another Indian company as the prospective manufacturer, we would accept that. "Whatever Defence Ministry says in this regard, we will follow. We are not lobbyist. We are industrial people", he added.

Alcatel's defence products include infrastructure networks, tactical network,, combat net radars, navigational aids and C3I. The company is expected to focus or Alcatel 101, a tactical network, in its presentation. Alcatel 101, whic is used in many NATO countries can be established in one or two hours and ensures secure communication.

As regards its proposed joinl venture with PCL, Mr. Samuel said we are definitely interested" in setting up this venture in which Alcatel would have 51 per cent equity holding with the balance 49 shares to be held by PCL, a bluechip company of Punjab Government.

The joint venture will acquire the existing transmission business of PCL at a suitable price which is currently under negotiation. Alcatel is planning to invest $10 million in the joint venture.

The MoU for this venture was signed in February 1992 to end the problems faced by PCL in the implementation of its 1988 technology transfer agreement with Akatel for manufacture of 7 gigahertz (GHz) digital microwave radio equipment.

Mr. Samuel said Alcatel would transfer the technology for the entire range of digital microwave equipment, point-to-multipoint system for rural communication, private mobile radio for police, fire brigade and other such agencies and radio base stations for GSM [expansion unknown] cellular mobile radio telephone system.

As regards its proposed joint venture with BPL in the field business communication, Mr. Nigel J. Hardiman, Regional Director (Asia Pacific) of Alcatel's Busmess Systems, said that India had been identified as priority area for this product group. "We are doing final business analysis" of this venture in which Alcatel would have 51 per cent equity stake.

He said Alcatel-BPL project would cost about Rs. [rupees] 25 crore and would be used as an export base for small to medium capacity electronic private branch exchanges (EPBX).

Commentary Discusses Ways To Combat Terrorism

BK2503123793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Commentary by Darshan Singh]

[Text] Learning about terrorism is the first step in fighting. It is essential to understand motivations and methods of terrorists to anticipate the targeting and at least limit the damage, if attacks cannot be prevented. The specter of international terrorism that haunted the world in 1980's has once again raised its ugly head with its first spate of bombings and killings. The shooting incidents in front of CIA Headquarters in Virginia, the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, bombings in Egypt, Britain, Sri Lanka, and now a series of bomb explosions in Bombay and Calcutta have taken a huge toll in human lives.

There are over 100 leading terrorist groups all over the world and almost every country is plagued by this menace. The terrorists have an advantage of striking at soft targets and that too at a time and place of their choice. They also do not recognize accepted geographical boundaries, do not recognize conventions, treaties, or accords. Even if some of the groups do come to negotiating table, there is no guarantee that all the members of the group will endorse the norms.

There is also state-sponsored terrorism aimed at subverting other countries. During the past three decades, the mafia has also taken to terrorism. The smugglers in general and drug traffickers in particular have taken to terrorist activities. Then there are illegal arms sellers in the international black market. Indeed, a new kind of nexus has developed between the terrorist groups, intelligence agencies, mafia, drug and arms traffickers, and politicians. All this has made it difficult to fight terrorism in any conventional manner. Terrorism, by nature, is dehumanizing, coercive, rhetorical, and designed to manipuate the victims.

In Bombay, explosions at 14 different places within a time span of two hours were meant to demonstrate their power to destroy anything, thus sending shockwaves throughout the country. The ease with which the explosives were collected, placed, and detonated shows a high degree of professionalism and planning. This also shows involvement of a large number of operators with local knowledge who were used for buying and stealing a number of vehicles. The terrorisms were supported and financed by a country or a group of countries hostile to India. The explosions were clearly masterminded and financed by a foreign intelligence agency. It was state sponsored.

There are other types of terrorism, such as the faction-sponsored one that killed Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. It is a part of insurgency or a separatist movement. Then, there is crime-related terrorism that uses violence as a means of spreading terror for money or to replace political power. Then, there is narcoterrorism, using drugs for money [word indistinct] and for financial destabilization. The political terrorism that India is facing today is based on dissent, at whole aided and abetted by a hostile neighbor who finds it convenient in this low cost, low intensity, proxy conflicts with India. Chinese help to Nagas and Mizos and Pakistani help to Sikhs and Kashmiri Muslims come under this category. This is keeping half of India's infantry force as well as police and paramilitary forces engaged. Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia et cetera, known as Islamic bomb, are behind this terrorism.

No single country can fight terrorism to its finish. Since terrorists do not recognize national boundaries, it has to be fought by a group of countries together in a region. Drug and narcotics-helped terrorism helps none, hence must be fought jointly by countries. The countries sponsoring terrrorism in the neighboring countries must remember that they can also be on the receiving end tomorrow. They should better shun it and earlier the better.

The terrorism sponsored by separatist groups within the country can be fought by meeting the legitimate demands and dealing firmly with terrorists that kill innoncent people for no fault of theirs. Here, people have to come forward in a big way to help the government. The police, paramilitary forces will have to be honest and not (?fleece) the innocent or sin against sinning. There must be strong bonds of understanding and faith between the masses and the bureaucracy and honest political will to deal with terrorism. There is no cut and dried formula to fight terrorists. It has to be studied and dealt with proper psychology and firmness. If persuasion fails, elimination of terrorists is a must.

Let international human rights organizations also not side with terrorists for violations of the human rights. This makes the task of the governments faced with terrorism much more difficult. Paramilitary forces must be reoriented in the training to fight the proxy or low cost war sponsored by hostile neighbors. Proper coordinated action by intelligence agencies can go a long way in dealing with greedy politicians, civil servants, smugglers, narcotics and arms traffickers. Under no circumstances, they should be allowed to develop nexus.

Commentary Rebuts Pakistan Human Rights Charges

BK0104042093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Commentary by correspondent T.N. Nallumuthu]

[Text] Much to the amusement and embarrassment of Asian governmental and nongovernmental organizations assembled at the regional conference on human rights in Bangkok yesterday, Pakistan raised bilateral issues on Kashmir and made references to India's internal matters which the conference procedures had strictly forbidden them. While India and all other speakers restricted their comments to macro-level problems afflicting the Asian

countries in the field of human rights, Pakistan's delegate made references to alleged human rights violations in India. These remarks, of course, constituted an abuse of the forum of the conference. The leader of the Indian delegation, Mr. M.N. Singhvi, made a frank and forceful observation toward the end of the statement of the Pakistani delegate.

Mr. Singhvi, putting the record straight, said let Pakistan remember before it makes allegations against India that it was Pakistan which was found guilty of aggression in Jammu and Kashmir by the United Nations on a complaint by India. Mr. Singhvi also said that those who are involved in the business of exporting terrorism to neighboring countries are the least qualified to speak in the name of human rights.

At the afternoon session, the Pakistani delegate said that bilateral issues could be raised in international forums even while being bound by the Simla Agreement. In his right of response, the Indian delegate, Mr. M.H. Ansari, made the point that Pakistan alone could improve the situation by desisting from aiding and abetting terrorism directed against India and other acts that are incompatible with good neighborliness.

Militants Killed, Arrested in Kashmir

BK3103152293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, eight militants and one person were killed in militancy-related incidents during the last 24 hours. Security forces arrested nine militants and recovered nine AK-type rifles and a large quantity of ammunition.

Four Killed, 40 Injured in Uttar Pradesh Bombing

BK3103144893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, four persons were killed and 40 injured in a bomb explosion at a cinema hall in Gola town of Khiri District last night. All the injured have been admitted to the hospital. According to official sources, the blast is suspected to be the handiwork of terrorists.

Iran

Christopher Terrorism Remarks Deemed 'Propaganda'

NC3103195193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a statement before a Senate subcommittee yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher accused Iran of supporting terrorism and inciting international unrest, ignoring the U.S. Government's terrorist tendencies. This is not the first time that U.S. Administration officials have accused Iran of supporting what they call terrorism: The Democrats, who came to the White House after a 12-year absence, are repeating the same failed experiment of their Republican predecessors.

It seems that U.S. officials' failure to force the Islamic Republic to acquiesce in their hegemonistic policies prompts them every once in a while to raise such issues as supporting terrorism, violating human rights, and producing nuclear and weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons, in a bid to escalate the political pressure against Islamic Iran. Christopher's description of Iran as an international agitator is in line with the political lexicon of U.S. officials who deem any country that confronts aggressive U.S. policy as an agitator. The Zionist entity, which practices the severest forms of torture, repression, and terrorism against the Muslim Palestinian people in the occupied territories, is not considered terrorist. Furthermore, assisting this repressive regime with billions of dollars is not deemed support for terrorism.

We would like to ask here who in fact is the international agitator: the state that exercises the role of an international policeman and allows itself whenever it wishes to send its forces to other sovereign countries to peddle its oppressive policy, or the state that establishes ties with all countries on the basis of mutual respect of sovereignty and rejection of all forms of domination and subservience? The Islamic Republic of Iran is linked by close and broad political, economic, and cultural ties with most countries of the world. Throughout the ages, Iran has always had amicable ties with all countries that do not seek to impose hegemony in their ties with other countries.

The old issues that U.S. officials raise periodically are intended for domestic consumption. These issues fail to draw the attention of international circles. The recent pressure by the U.S. Government led by the Democratic Party against the Islamic Republic of Iran is due to its failure to convince its closest allies to agree with its policy against Iran, despite all its deceptive information campaigns against Iran.

Accusing Iran of producing nuclear weapons and of complicity in acts of terrorism carried out in various countries without any documented evidence has become propaganda material for Western media. Certain political observers in the West are wondering about the real motives of the U.S. Government in accusing Iran of supporting terrorism. Iran has friendly ties with all countries. Iran is playing an effective role in solving world issues. It has proven that it uses all its resources to defend the oppressed.

That Iran stands up to Washington because of its hegemonistic policies does not mean it supports terrorist methods. It seems that the White House forgets the

CIA's terrorist activities and is trying to accuse other countries of exercising such activities by raising such issues as human rights and terrorism to divert international attention and to evade criticism of being the leader of international terrorism.

Clandestine Welcomes Christopher Remarks

NC0104104293 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state vehemently attacked the Khomeyni regime in a strongly worded statement, calling it "an international outlaw and insurgent" [yaghi] for its support of terrorism. Warren Christopher, who was addressing a U.S. Senate committee, attacked the regime's efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction, adding: The United States will make the maximum effort to prevent this regime from obtaining loans from the World Bank and will strive to convince countries such as France and Germany that the Khomeyni regime does not deserve their support now.

The U.S. secretary of state said: The Khomeyni regime is the main source of strengthening terrorist groups in the world. The ruling regime is an international outlaw and has links with bombings and killings all over the world. U.S. media have described this stance as the most strongly worded statement from President Clinton's administration to date. REUTER stated: Christopher's recent remarks indicate the rising tension between Washington and the Tehran regime.

Following these utterances by the U.S. secretary of state regarding the Khomeyni regime, mojahed brother Mohammad Seyyed ol-Mohaddesin, in charge of the foreign affairs committee of the Iranian National Resistance Council, welcomed this stance, and stressed: The suppression and violation of human rights and the export of reaction and terrorism are traits of the Khomeyni regime. The antihuman regime's stockpiling of classical and weapons of mass destruction and its attempts to gain access to nuclear energy are aimed mainly at perpetuating its rule and spreading reaction (?in the region).

Brother mojahed Mohammad Seyyed ol-Mohaddesin added: Just as 5,000 Iranians in Washington declared their representation of the people of Iran, the only means of combating this antihuman regime is a more drastic approach and the implementation of an oil and arms embargo by the UN Security Council, as well as the expulsion of the Iranian regime's representative from the United Nations and his (?replacement) by the Iranian National Resistance Council led by brother mojahed Mas'ud Rajavi, who is striving to establish democracy and human rights in Iran.

In the wake of the remarks by the U.S. secretary of state against the Khomeyni regime, the regime reacted by grovelling in a radio commentary today. The abject regime—without airing its previous insidious stance of denouncing the powers of world arrogance—attempted to prove its innocence by presenting a great deal of proof and evidence. It claimed that it has the smallest military budget in the Middle East and that it is committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

What is even more ridiculous is that this destructive regime alleged that it is under pressure because of its independent stance and thus attempted to mask its savage terrorism and its despicable export of its reactionary policies. In its radio commentary, the Khomeyni regime—its attempts at portraying itself as the persecuted party notwithstanding—clearly expressed its pessimism on ever being able to terminate worldwide opposition to Iran and the prevailing anti-Iranian stance.

Celebration Leads to Demonstration, Arrests

NC0104070893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Reports from the party committee in Baneh state that special Nowruz [Iranian New Year] celebrations in the city led to demonstrations and conflicts between the people and youths of the city and the revolution guards of the reactionary clerical regime.

According to this report, each year youths in Baneh gather on Nowruz eve to light the Nowruz fire. This year as well the youths in Baneh organized groups and set off for [name indistinct] Street where they gathered at 1700.

Seeing this situation, the antipopular mercenaries sent a large number of men to the streets among the people both because of their (?opposition) to marking Nowruz celebrations and because of their fear that the youths would rise against them. The presence of the regime's mercenaries enraged the zealous Baneh people and [words indistinct]. The regime's men then fired in the air to prevent the people's march and to contain the crowd. The people of Baneh, whose hatred was escalating more and more each minute, attacked the mercenaries with whatever means they had and forced them to retreat. The people then started to set fire to placards carrying the regime's slogans and to pictures of Khamenc'i and Rafsanjani.

The people then attacked Sepah, Tejarat, Saderat, [name indistinct], and Mellat banks. They broke all the windows of the banks and tore down and set fire to the bank signs. At this moment the regime's hirelings started to broadcast clergyman Khamene'i's Nowruz message over the loudspeakers of the square, thinking that they could thus calm the people. However, to shut out Khamene'i's voice, the demonstrators cut all the wires of the amplifying system.

Fear engulfed the regime's mercenaries more and more each moment. To prevent the spread of the demonstrations, one of the antipopular officers went among the people together with a group of mercenaries with the intention of preventing the people's attacks on government buildings, but he was attacked by the people and had to flee in disgrace.

The demonstrators in Baneh then chanted antiregime slogans and broke the windows of the regime's buildings. They lit Nowruz fires in the streets and [word indistinct] and in this way they proved to the antipopular enemy that no power can prevent them from marking the traditional and auspicious Nowruz celebrations.

Seeing that shots could not prevent the people's gathering and that insisting on this course would lead to more destruction, the regime's mercenaries sent several cameramen and photographers among the people to identify them. The respectable people of Baneh realized the plot that was being hatched by the antipopular enemy and attacked the cameramen and broke their cameras.

Thus, after two and a half hours of marches, after breaking the doors and windows of several banks, after setting fire to the regime's pictures and placards, and after lighting the Nowruz fire, the combatant people of Baneh victoriously ended their demonstrations and returned to their homes.

According to the same report, the next day—the first day of Nowruz—forces of the antipopular regime attempted to arrest the people of Baneh, especially the youths. These arrests continued for several days. So far a large number of people in Baneh have been arrested and cast into the clerical regime's dungeons. There is still no information on their fate. According to reports, in continuation of its arrest of the people the clerical regime is arresting people regardless of whether they participated in the demonstrations or not and it has even arrested a large number of parents of youths whom it has not been able to find.

We in the Voice of Iranian Kordestan express our endless gratitude to the [word indistinct] combatant youths of the proud city of Baneh and to the respectable masses of the city in general. We hope that their courage and faith will always increase, and that as they proved [word indistinct] to the enemy on Nowruz eve, they will also [words indistinct] for the release of the arrested people.

Khamene'i Amnesty Called 'Farcical Display'

NC0104072693 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The mullah Khamene'i, the leader who was chosen in one night from the dregs of the Khomeyni regime, once again embarked on a superficial maneuver of granting amnesty and announced the so-called release of some prisoners. This afternoon, the regime's radio announced that this decision was made on the recommendation of cleric Yazdi, the criminal head of the regime's judiciary.

It is obvious that those released are the ones who were blindly arrested from the streets and have not been charged specifically, or are those who have almost completed their prison terms. In any case, there have been no releases of political prisoners, particularly of the supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO].

Such maneuvers by the remnants of the Khomeyni regime is a dastardly reaction to the successive condemnations of the criminal ruling mullahs in international organizations. However, the hollowness of this farcical display has been exposed to the people of the world repeatedly by the MKO and has ceased to deceive them.

German Refusal To Allow Minister's Visit Viewed

NC0104075593 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] According to reports received, the German Government has very contemptuously refused to permit the Iranian regime's minister of Islamic guidance to visit Germany. The Khomeyni regime's minister of Islamic guidance expressed his intention to visit Germany, but the German Government did not consent to this wish and stressed that in light of the current tension in mutual relations, the time is not right for such a visit.

It is worth mentioning that Germany is the most important trading partner of the regime and the regime's agents and officials have repeatedly complained that despite billions of dollars worth of trade exchanges and the massive economic interests the German Government gains through relations with the Iranian regime, Germany does not desist from denigrating and humiliating the decrepit Khomeyni regime.

Two Wounded in Attack on Convoy in Strait of Hormuz

NC3103182793 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 31 (AFP)—Gunmen in a speedboat shot and wounded two Iranian traders in an attack on a four-vessel convoy in the Strait of Hormuz, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast guard said Wednesday [31 March].

"It seems it was an act of piracy carried out by Iranians. But it was outside our territorial waters," a coast guard spokesman told AFP. The attackers fled after Tuesday's raid, apparently without any booty.

The traders' boats, laden with electronics, cigarettes, rice, sugar and other goods, were en route to the southern Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas from Ra's al-Khaymah emirate when the speedboat intercepted them.

The attack took place off Oman's coastal region of Kumzar inside the narrow strait. The two wounded Iranians were taken to a Ra's al-Khaymah hospital, where doctors said they were in stable condition.

Finance for Helping War-Damaged Areas Approved

LD3103202893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The cabinet in its Wednesday [31 March] meeting reviewed important domestic and foreign issues and passed a number of regulations for the articles of the national budget bill of [current Iranian] year 1372. The regulations of Article 31, which was approved in the cabinet's meeting on Wednesday, concerned the means of financing projects for cities and villages damaged during the war as well as financing citizens who suffered during the war.

The meeting also approved the policy for providing bank credits to the non-state sector in the current year. According to this decision 19 percent of the provisions will go to agriculture and water-supply, 36 percent to industries and mines, 30 percent to construction and housing, 8.5 percent to trade and services, and finally 6.5 percent to exports.

Central Bank Head Reviews Deposit, Loan Figures

LD3003115393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0245 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Statement by Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli; place and date not given; from the "Work and Life" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Allow me to start with the part that everyone finds sweet, and that is bank interest. As you know, according to Islamic banking non-usury regulations, the interest for bank deposits declared at the beginning of each year is only partly correct. Therefore, we cannot definitely say that a 14 percent or an 11 percent interest will be paid.

At the beginning of the year 1371 [beginning 21 March 1992], we announced that five-year deposits would receive 14.5 percent interest, the three-year deposit about 12.25 percent, the two-year deposit 11 percent, the one-year deposit 9.5 percent, and the short-term deposit 7 percent. At the end of the year, we looked at the bank records to find out their real profit. Fortunately, we noticed that the banks had made more than expected.

As the dear nation is aware, when banks make a profit, it belongs to the depositors and the share owners. The banks' share owner is the government, so the profit goes into the government account and is spent on the people. Therefore, people should not think that if a bank makes a profit it will benefit a particular group.

Because the banks made more profit, we increased the definite interests for the year 1371. Now the five-year deposit has a 15 percent interest rate, the three-year deposit 13 percent, the two- year 11.5 percent, the one-year deposit 10 percent, and the short- term deposit 7.5 percent. This is definite, and God willing, from the month of Ordibehesht [beginning 21 April] the banks will be counting and gradually paying it. So last year's depositors, who received less profit will be receiving the difference.

We have significantly helped investment in the country in the year 1371 The banks increased their services—their loans to various sectors, including agriculture, industry, housing, mining, services, and exports—to about 8 trillion rials. Of the loans, about 20 percent went to agriculture, 30 percent to housing and construction, 37 percent to industry and mining, and about 13-14 percent to other sectors, including trade, education, exports, and so on. Extending these loans is only possible when we invite people to deposit their money more and when this invitation is accepted.

Fortunately, I can inform the people that bank deposits increased in the year 1371. Long-term deposits, which are our indicators, showed an increase of about 29 percent.

Now the increased total bank deposits are about 30 trillion rials, which when compared to the 12 trillion rials of the year 1368 [ending March 1990] indicate the effort of the banks in collecting this money in the past three years. [passage omitted]

Economic Progress in Past Year Reviewed

NC2703095593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Commentary by Central News Unit]

[Text] The policy of improving the economic structure to reach equilibrium coupled with increasing production was implemented more firmly and more profoundly last year [ending 20 March 1993]. The economic system became healthier and was directed toward developing genuine economic activities, using the country's natural resources and potential more extensively, encouraging greater participation by the private sector in production matters, easing regulations, using domestic and foreign investments, and reforming the country's industrial infrastructure. It seems that during the current year [beginning 21 March 1993], which is the last year of the first five-year economic development plan, the major objectives can be achieved and the country's economic progress will be freed from many of the bottlenecks and obstacles it is facing.

According to estimates by experts, last year economic growth was about nine percent. This is at a time when the average economic growth of Iran during 1369-1370 [21 March 1990-21 March 1991] reached 11 percent. Since achieving an average economic growth rate of eight percent was set as a major goal in the five-year plan, we can therefore see that economic growth in the period in question was greater than that envisaged in the plan.

Preventing increased inflation was yet another objective of the first five-year plan. In this phase, the process of controlling cash flow and decreasing the state budget deficit coupled with an increased gross national product was chosen as the means to control inflation and achieve balanced prices in the market. According to the plan, the government's budget deficit is to drop from more than 2 trillion rials in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988], which constituted half of the budget, to zero this year. If this objective is achieved, it can help solve many economic problems. According to economic experts, with the drop of the budget deficit to zero in 1372, as well as with the commencement of activities by a large number of production projects, the fight against inflation will be relatively successful and the inflation rate will drop.

With the implementation of the policy of a single rate for foreign exchange and removing the multiple foreign exchange rate system in 1372, foreign exchange at a floating rate will be placed at the disposal of applicants from the government and private sectors. With this method, in addition to improving the pricing system in the goods market, imports will drop and the export of nonoil products will flourish. Thus, it seems that in the new year—with the implementation of the system for creating a balance in foreign exchange—the country's production will become more competitive and the quality and quantity of many products will be improved to meet international standards and be offered to world markets.

Last year was also productive for agriculture. The production of strategic goods during the past harvest year reached 27.6 million tonnes, 3 million tonnes more than the previous year. For the first time the country's wheat production surpassed 10 million tonnes, while considerable increase was also achieved in other agricultural products. It is expected that adopting incentives policies, particularly raising the guaranteed price for the purchase of agricultural goods, putting more land under cultivation, and implementing various irrigation projects will make this increase continue.

Our foreign trade was more favorable in 1371 and nonoil exports in the past year reached $4 billion from $2.6 billion in 1370. Even though imports were not perceptibly different cost-wise in comparison with last year, their composition changed and they comprised capital goods and semifinished products.

Iran's industrial production also achieved considerable growth last year, and in the implementation of the country's first five-year plan, by the end of 1371 more than 3,000 production-industrial units became operational. Removing administrative red tape from the sale of industrial goods and the purchase of industrial machinery, improving many factories, and commissioning new production units were all effective in increasing industrial production.

At any rate, last year was fruitful for Iran's economy and statistics and figures speak of the country's success in improving the country's economic structure. In short, even though we have a long way to go until we reach a balanced economy, nevertheless a correct path has been chosen. The year 1372 is the last year of the first five-year plan and the first year of the second five-year plan is to start. Achieving economic success calls for greater participation and efforts by the people and officials.

Successful Aircraft Repair Operation Reported

LD3103154293 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—One more F-14 fighter bomber aircraft has been repaired and put into operation by Iranian experts at the Aviation Industries Organisation of the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces logistics.

The aircraft was delivered to the Islamic Republic Air Force in the presence of a number of military officials here on Wednesday.

Over the past few years especially during the epic years of the sacred defence (1989-88), Iranian experts succesfully repaired aircraft without the services of foreign experts despite the economic sanctions imposed by the Westerners on the Islamic Republic.

The latest aircraft repair was the hundredth carried out by Iranian experts since the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

* Brazil Refusing To Build Karun-3 Dam

93LA0008E London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] The Brazilian Company, "Andrade Guitierrez," which was denied the receipt of $300 million from the government of that country to build the large Karun-3 Dam in the Izeh area in Iran, has announced a reversal of its decision regarding the carrying out of this project. The above-mentioned company announced the reason for its change of mind as the refusal of the Brazilian Government to allow the $300 million grant. The above-mentioned company took part last year in an international bid to build this dam and won. Following it, an agreement was signed between that company and the Ministry of Energy.

* Ayatollah Amoli Deceased at 91 in Qom

93LA0012D London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Ayatollah Hashemi Amoli died in Qom at age 91 after a long illness. A great many people with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and current teachers at the seminaries in Qom and Najaf studied in his school.

Hashemi Amoli was one of the first to approve Ayatollah Khomeyni's government by the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult.

* Regime's Control of Universities Criticized

93LA0012C London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Last week several university professors in Tehran told KEYHAN's Tehran reporter: The government must give full freedom and independence to the universities, and in short, the fact that the government must supervise their work does not mean that it should seek to control the universities. In this regard Dr. Khaliji, chief of 'Alameh Tabataba'i University, harshly criticized Iran's methods of higher education. He said: The government must put the budget and the planning of classes into the hands of the universities themselves, and allow them to raise their own funds. He added: Currently little or no use is made of those running the universities in various planning tasks, and they are therefore given no independence. However, if all organizations, from the Majles to the other centers, made use of the universities, they would appreciate them. Dr. Khaliji added: The Islamic Republic looks at the universities as if they were offices and other institutions.

Dr. Taqi Ghaffar, a university professor, has also said: The government must only supervise the work of the universities; it must not control them. He insisted: The universities certainly must operate outside the Ministry of Housing and especially the government, and it is necessary that the university people themselves manage the universities, and determine their responsibilities.

This professor considers the nonuniversity management of the universities to be the main problem in the centers of higher education.

* Educator Criticizes Clergy for Usurping Jobs

93LA0008A London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Dr. 'Abdolkarim Sorush, university professor, former member of the Cultural Revolution Headquarters, and loyal friend of the revolution, last week in a speech on the occasion of the week of the unity of the seminary and university at the University of Esfahan strongly criticized the regime of the Islamic Republic for trusting all affairs of the country to the clerics and causing the unemployment of the educated and the university educated. The speech of Sorush has made an impact in the government religious circles and the Feyziyyeh Seminary. 'Abdolkarim Sorush, who has had nearly 14 years of direct cooperation and association with the leaders of the Islamic Republic, said: Because the management of the country is in the hands of the clerics and the affairs are entrusted to them, the university graduates do not find jobs today and do not get management positions either. In another part of his speech, Sorush said: Religious sciences in practice today are sciences that bring power to those who meet the qualifications, and this power is not easily accessible to everyone. Even though a scholarly community has more access to power than other scholarly communities, many potential problems threaten it, and these problems did not exist prior to the revolution.

In another part of his speech, Sorush emphasized: The seminaries deal with the common people, who ask them unscientific and nonspecialized problems. Also, the clerics are responsible to guide and train the common people. Speaking to the common people requires different skills than speaking to the elite. Sorush continued: When an instructional, specialized, and scholarly institution makes one of its goals delivering sermons that consist of trying to persuade, and in a nonexpert and nonrational manner to penetrate the hearts of the common people, to inculcate an issue in any way possible among people who are not interested at all, this can drag that instructional institution in a way that is not always desirable. But these characteristics do not exist in the universities.

The universities deal with the elite and do not engage at all in the duty of guiding the people. For this reason, they keep the sciences from becoming popularized. Sorush had then said: If here I claim that the university environment is an environment of nonsubmission and that the seminary is an environment of submission, I have not made an exaggerated claim. This submission is primary. In experimental sciences, we have no red flag. But in the seminary, science disputes are not the basis. You have the right to advance, but you can dispute only to a point, from then on, there is a red flag. When we reach a sacred area, both sides must be silent and submit. Dr. Sorush in another part of his speech referred to the system of religious guardianship and said: The theory that manages the country is the theory of religious guardianship. This theory makes it mandatory to have a religious guardian at the head of the regime who has control of affairs. For this reason, the ties of the seminary with the sources of power is an organized and very reliable tie.

After the publication of the speech of Dr. Sorush stating the reality of the relationship between the seminaries and universities, the Islamic Association of Students of some of the institutions of higher education protested Sorush's statements.

In a speech, Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi, the head of the Council of Qom Seminary Teachers, considered the arguments made by Dr. Sorush to have harmful consequences for Islam and the revolution and expressed the issues raised as something higher than personal opinion and misperception. Emphasized that there are hands behind this issue, he said: During the days of unity, these two great strata that are tied to each other and are at one another's side acted in quite a divided manner and with hostility, skepticism, and hatred created between them. All the while, the enemies are waiting in ambush and are ready to strike blows on this country in any way. You see that today they use the violations of human rights, the purchasing of atomic weapons, and the ownership of the three Iranian islands as excuses, and we, too, by creating internal disunity hasten to help them. Referring to the criticisms that are made of the seminaries and that because of these problems the unity of the seminaries and the universities will be achieved, he said: When it is

said that in the religious sciences and the seminaries questions and answers and criticism cannot take place, this is a lie and sophistry. Anyone who says such a thing is truly an unaware and partial person. The seminary sciences are full of criticism, and questions are answered in such a way that happens in no university, not only in the country but also abroad. Emphasizing that questions and answers exist in everything, but red flags are in the foundations (the Koran and reliable reported sayings of the Prophet), and no Muslim can say that he does not believe in the Koran and the reported sayings of the Prophet, he said: Are you arguing from the viewpoint of a Muslim or a non-Muslim, as a materialistic sociologist? If you are looking from the viewpoint of a Muslim, you must raise the red flag, which is submission to divine inspiration. Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi rejected the claim of lack of freedom of questions and answers, and considering the existence of problems and doubt in the seminary sciences to be a clear lie and accusation and a sign of the unfamiliarity of the speaker (Sorush) with the basic concepts of the seminary. Emphasizing that there is red flag in university sciences as well, which is when the students juxtapose formulas and equations with tested and experienced phenomena, he said: The red flag is like a proven principle, and the proven principle in religious sciences is divine inspiration and in the universities testing and experiment.

The member of the Qom Seminary Instruction Association, referring to the spread of poison and provocation among students concerning the seminarians now having access to power and being in charge of the administration of the country and that the university people do not enjoy such resources, said: A person who says such things has no scientific problem, but he has a grudge regarding these issues. If we are truly Muslims, we must accept having a religious purist and scholar at the head of the government. If we do not accept it, we must see which government we support. He considered the statement that the universities deal with the elite and are a scientific complex in danger of becoming common, while the seminaries deal with the common people as nothing more than a lie and sophistry and continued. There is no doubt that one of the sections of the seminary is propagation, and propagation means speaking in the best possible manner, as is true of the Koran. Even the purpose of literature that is taught in the universities is to speak better.

Stating that one of the glories of the seminaries is that they are popular and are always with the people, he said: Is being with the people a fault or being "common stricken" a fault? Should we consider the people who have given so much blood and self-sacrificed, as have the common people, and put them aside to deal with a group of the elite?

The head of the Supreme Council of Management of Qom Seminary, stating that this is a source of pride for the clerics to be at the side of the people and for the people to be at their side, he considered the creation of doubt not unlike the action done in the past by people like Kasravi. In conclusion, stating that the seminaries and universities are and shall be at each other's side, he said: We will not allow the disuniters to disunite us.

* Mek Council Reports 70 Women Members

93LA0008B London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] The People's Mojahedin Organization announced that it has increased the number of members of its "National Resistance Council" from 21 to 250. The Mojahedin announced that the above-mentioned council has held a meeting in an unknown place in Iraq for nine days. The National Resistance Council that was created in 1981 in addition to the People's Mojahedin Organization has several other small groups as members. The secretary general of this council is Maryam Rajavi, the wife of Mas'ud Rajavi, the leader of the People's Mojahedin. In the announcement of the council, Rajavi is mentioned as the "historical leader."

The communique published about the changes in the Resistance Council states that half of the members of the new council are women. The reason for the increase in the numbers of the council has been mentioned as the need that will be created in the "transitional period," after the fall of the present regime.

Nepal

Transport Strike Ends With Government Concessions

BK3103163193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 31 (AFP)—A crippling two-day-old transport strike here ended Wednesday after the Government agreed to meet vehicle owners' demands for changes to a strict new road safety law.

Hectic negotiations ended with the government agreeing to a seven-point ultimatum from the Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs' Association (NTEA) and two other transport unions, the association's chairman Chop Narayan Shrestha said. [passage indistinct]

Pakistan

Minister of State Afridi Resigns From Sharif Cabinet

BK3103143693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 31 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif received a further blow as a fourth member of his Cabinet resigned Wednesday.

Minister of State for Zakat (Islamic tax) Haji Gulsher Khan Afridi, said he was quitting to protest Sharif's reluctance to support President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for a second term.

The next president is due to be elected in November.

Afridi told a press conference in the northwestern city of Peshawar that the incumbent must be reelected because the country required the services of a man of his calibre and competence.

Separately 16 members of parliament including Minister of State for Sports Malik Ajmal also announced their support for the president at a press conference in the same city.

Afridi and the others all come from the tribal area of the president's home province, the Northwest Frontier Province.

The resignations followed a split in the ruling Pakistan Moslem League (PML) over the election of a successor to Mohammad Khan Junejo, who headed the party until his death on March 17.

Sharif's nomination for the PML presidency by a section of the party last week led to resignations by Environment Minister Anwar Saifullah, Planning and Development Minister Hamid Nasir Chattha, and an advisor to Sharif holding ministerial rank, Asad Junejo.

They cited what they called the "indecent haste" in nominating Sharif for the top party office as the reason for their resignations and also accused the prime minister of bypassing the Cabinet in decision-making.

The prime minister and the president have been involved in a tussle over Sharif's plan to amend the Constitution to reduce presidential authority including his discretionary power to dissolve the assembly.

Russian Foreign Minister To Visit 6 Apr

BK3103153293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev will visit Pakistan from 6 April. The visit is a part of the process to strengthen relations between Pakistan and Russia.

Uzbekistan Trade Delegation Continues Visit

Cooperation Agreements Signed

BK3103114493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed three agreements to promote all-round cooperation in trade and industry and joint economic ventures, giving a new fillip to their bilateral relations. Details of the agreements were announced at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon by the minister of state for economic affairs, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and Uzbek First Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Mr. Ratbek R. Rustambekov with the first two-day session of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan joint ministerial commission ended.

The general agreement signed by the two countries covers a wide range of subjects for future cooperation. The fields of cooperation include cotton, textiles, other industries, petroleum and natural resources, engineering and technical sectors, communications, science and technology, culture and tourism. The second agreement formalizes formation of a joint ministerial commission, and the third agreement aims at regulating countertrade between the two countries.

Meets With President Khan

BK3103152493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] A seven-member delegation from Uzbekistan led by the first deputy minister for foreign economic relations, Mr. Ratbek R. Rustambekov, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, the Uzbek delegation discussed with the president ways and means to promote economic and trade relations between the two countries. The president said relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan were based on centuries-old solid foundations which have been revived following restoration of Uzbekistan's independence. These have been reinforced by growing bilateral relations and Uzbekistan's inclusion in ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. For further promotion of relations, the president emphasized the importance of road and rail links between the two countries.

The Uzbek minister briefed the president about the progress made so far in the joint ministerial commission meeting and conveyed to him the Uzbek Government's keen desire to further widen and strengthen relations with Pakistan.

Joint Venture Opportunities Noted

BK0104094693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The visiting Uzbek first deputy minister for foreign economic relations, Mr. Ratbek R. Rustambekov, has had a meeting with the federal minister for production, Mr. Islam Nabi, in Islamabad. During the meeting, possibilities for joint ventures in textile machinery, automobiles, steel industry, and fertilizers were discussed. Mr. Islam Nabi told the Uzbek minister that Uzbek entrepreneurs have good opportunities to invest in Pakistan in various fields as a result of the liberal economic policy and maximum incentives offered to the foreign investors. The Uzbek minister hoped that as a result of the meeting of the joint ministerial commission, the two countries would enhance areas of cooperation in various fields.

Accord on Joint Banking Company Signed With Kazakhstan

BK0104035693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Pakistan's Muslim Commercial Bank Limited and Kazakhstan's (Iglik) Bank under which a joint stock banking company will be set up in Kazakhstan. The company comprising of eight directors—four from each country—will operate under the Kazakhastan law. It is expected that this joint banking venture in the private sector will promote commercial exchanges and business between the two countries.

EC Delegation Discusses Economic, Trade Cooperation

BK3103160093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The 14th meeting of the Pakistan-European Community joint commission began in Islamabad today. At the meeting, ongoing development projects as well as economic and trade cooperation programs were reviewed in detail. The prospect of expanding the area of the EC's assistance commensurate with the Pakistan Government's priorities was also discussed. The European Community lauded Pakistan's policies on privatization, promotion of free trade, deregulation, and foreign exchange reform. The EC delegation was apprised of Pakistan's eighth five-year plan priorities. The Pakistani delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Manzurul Hassan, while the EC team was headed by (Fohsadi), the director for Asia and Latin America. The joint commission meeting will continue tomorrow.

Concern Expressed at Rights Violations by India

BK3103152693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan has noted with deep concern reports of continued gross violations of human rights by Indian security forces in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a news briefing in Islamabad this afternoon, a Foreign Office spokesman called upon India to halt these violations of human rights. He also urged the world community to dissuade India from its campaign of repression. He said the world must continue to press India to allow international organizations, such as Amnesty International and Asia Watch, into Held Kashmir to assess the violations of human rights.

Officials Criticized for Extraditing Drug Suspects

BK3103135193 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 30 Mar 93 pp 7, 8

[By Mohammad Aslam Khan]

[Text] Islamabad—According to informed sources, Interior Ministry officials have yielded to pressure and allowed the U.S. narcotics control authorities to arrest suspects by conducting direct raids inside Pakistan. Consequently, local and U.S. officials, belonging to the Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA], have started directly arresting alleged smugglers involved in drug trafficking, and wanted by the United States, from their homes and offices. These sources said that after the arrests, the accused sought by the United States are brought directly to the DEA offices located at the U.S. consulates in four provincial capitals, instead of being taken to the Federal Investigation Agency's [FIA] headquarters as the law requires, where they are interrogated by U.S. officials. Their pictures are taken and statements are recorded in order to prosecute them in the United States; afterwards, the accused are handed back to the FIA for necessary action. The sources further said that Interior Ministry officials start action to arrest the alleged suspects sought by the United States without seeking any proof from the U.S. Government, and also involve DEA officials in this action. Thereafter, a suspect's statements are recorded and he is later informed in jail that the court has given its verdict against him. Fifteen days after this judgment, the accused is handed to U.S. authorities for extradition to the United States. The sources said that under Section 13 of the Extradition Act of 1972 the federal government is fully empowered to totally refuse extradition of any suspect to any foreign country or to decide to extradite him only after the completion of all investigations at home. But due to U.S. Government pressure and incentives, the senior officials of the Interior Ministry have thus far not refused to hand over any suspects to any foreign country or to the United States under Section 13 of the aforementioned act. According to these sources, the U.S. authorities have offered cash rewards and U.S. visas to the Pakistani officials for their assistance in arresting wanted suspects, and that is why the officials have been handing over all alleged suspects to the U.S. authorities, ignoring all laws, rules, and regulations of the land.

Record Number Sent Overseas for Employment

BK0104035893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] As a result of the present government's privatization policy over 200,000 persons were sent overseas during the last 12 months, which is a record. This was stated by Mian Mohammad Zaman, minister of state for manpower and overseas Pakistanis, at a reception in Islamabad. He said the government is using all available resources and no effort will be spared to send more manpower overseas.

Sri Lanka

Commission on Cooperation With Bangladesh Ends Session

BK0104114893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have decided to establish more direct contacts between the private sectors of

the two countries. This was decided at the third session of the Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation which ended in Colombo yesterday. The joint commission will continue to provide support and encouragement to private sector. The delegation reviewed the existing bilateral cooperation and explored the new areas of cooperation. Meetings of the commission were marked by warm cordiality and friendship and the two sides expressed their resolve to further expand bilateral cooperation. They reviewed trade flows between the two countries. It was agreed to reach a long-term understanding with regard to import, export of principal items from each country in the interest of the two nations. The Sri Lanka delegation was led by Minister for Trade and Commerce A.R. Mansoor. The Bangladesh finance minister, M. Saifur Rahman, headed the delegation of his country.

Minister Urges Holding Regional Naval Exercise

BK2903110993 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0903 GMT 29 Mar 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 29 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's leader of the house and Minister of Industries, Science and Technology Ranil Wickremasinghe Monday urged the senior defense logisticians of the Pacific-Indian Ocean region to have a regional naval exercise to help create a regional identity.

Minister Wickremasinghe, who was the chief guest at the 22nd annual Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar [PASOLS], the first ever international security conference in Sri Lanka which commenced at the Colombo Hilton, said that regional disarmament was very important for regional security.

Mr. Wickremasinghe said it is through regional dialogue that national security could be created.

He said confidence among member countries with regard to logistics issues is not only built through bilateral relationships, but also through regional naval exercises.

Speaking within the context of the Gulf war, Mr. Wickremasinghe said global disarmament is parallel to regional disarmament because the actions of one region affects another. During the Gulf war, Sri Lanka was one of the countries severely hit by the consequences of it.

He said that regional forums such as PASOLS help discuss the common issues of the region among the security community. Mr. Wickremasinghe, who is also the Sri Lankan Government's cabinet spokesman, said the fact that Sri Lanka is fast becoming a prominent member of the business community in the Asian Pacific region is currently experiencing an economic boom. Strategically located Sri Lanka is increasingly becoming a hub for investment and brisk business under the dynamic leadership of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, Mr. Wickremasinghe said.

Security Forces Repulse LTTE Attack in Vavuniya

BK3103114693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] An LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attack on the extended forward defense locality of the Sri Lankan security forces at Cheddikulam in the Vavuniya District was repulsed successfully in the early hours of yesterday. A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that about 40 LTTE terrorists carried out the attack. However, the soldiers had put up fierce resistance and forced the LTTE to withdraw without gaining any territory. Three soldiers were killed and five others wounded in action in defending Chettikulam yesterday. Terrorists suffered casualties, but details are not yet known. The security forces in Operation (?Ground Floor) on the Mannar Island captured an LTTE base abandoned by the terrorists in the wake of oncoming government troops.